

SWP campaign to win readers expands reach of the 'Militant'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The presidential election is over, but the necessity for working people organizing to defend our own interests and learning about how others are doing so and have fought successfully in the past, remains. Socialist Workers Party members are winning new readers to the *Militant* and books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

With three weeks left, the fall international *Militant* subscription drive is on the way to meeting all its goals. At the same time the SWP is winning contributions to its \$120,000 Party-Building Fund, which finances the year-round work of the party. The drive and the fund end Nov. 24.

Whichever capitalist politician wins the White House or a majority in Congress one thing is sure, they will help the bosses in trying to make working people pay for the capitalist crisis. Getting the *Militant* and books that record the lessons of previous working-class struggles into working people's hands is invaluable for forging a road forward.

Unlike the Democrats and Repub-

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'Charge cops in killing of Walter Wallace Jr. in Philadelphia!'

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Hundreds have taken to the streets here to protest the Oct. 26 police killing of 27-year-old Walter Wallace Jr. Two cops fired 14 shots at him in the Cobbs Creek neighborhood of West Philadelphia. At the time he was with his mother in front of their home, with neighbors watching.

Walter Wallace Sr. said the family had called 911 for an ambulance after his son experienced a mental health crisis, but the cops arrived instead. The cops knew Wallace was having emotional difficulties, having been called to the house twice earlier that day. His mother, Cathy Brant, tried to calm things by pleading with her son to drop a knife he was carrying and begging the police to lower their weapons.

"I was telling the police to stop. 'Don't shoot my son, please don't shoot my son,'" she told the media. "They paid me no mind and they just shot him."

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Join fight to defend political rights in Washington state



Militant/Henry Dennison

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy at Naches, Wash., Nov. 2 commemoration of worker David Cruz, who died of COVID. Trabajadores Unidos por la Justicia union is fighting for safety at packinghouses. Defending political rights of SWP is also defense of union rights.

Whoever's in the White House, workers need to fight for jobs

The following statement is based on the talk given by Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president, in Seattle Oct. 30. Her running mate was Malcolm Jar-

Fight wins public support, fund goes over \$20,000

BY BETSEY STONE

SEATTLE — The Socialist Workers Party held a special meeting here Oct. 30 to build support for an important

As we go to press SWP campaign has won the first round in fight for political rights in Washington. —See page 6 for more information

fight for political rights that is unfolding in Washington state. Featured speakers were SWP candidate for president Alyson Kennedy and SWP National Cam-

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

rett. As we go to press, the results of the presidential election are not settled. Either way, whoever occupies the White House will govern in the interests of the capitalist ruling families. Working

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Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Sept. 26 - Nov. 24 (week five)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	44	70	35
Atlanta	70	46	70	48
Chicago	110	71	110	62
Dallas	30	20	30	15
Lincoln	12	9	12	9
Los Angeles	90	53	90	56
Louisville	80	53	80	47
Miami	25	15	25	12
New Jersey	70	48	70	40
New York	85	68	85	66
Oakland	85	56	85	76
Philadelphia	25	20	25	17
Pittsburgh	40	28	40	13
Seattle	85	42	85	38
Twin Cities*	30	25	25	18
Washington	60	38	55	41
Total U.S.	967	636	957	590
Prisoners	25	25		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	40	31	40	27
Manchester	35	32	35	22
Total U.K.	75	63	75	49
Canada	85	51	85	70
New Zealand	25	22	25	14
Australia	25	13	25	10
Total	1,202	810	1,167	736
SHOULD BE	1,200	750	1,200	750
*Raised goal				

Capitalist for-profit health industry no better prepared for '2nd wave' of virus



Militant/Ved Dookhun

Nurses protest for contract, safety, better care Sept. 18 at NY Albany Medical Center.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A new surge of COVID-19, with increased hospitalizations and deaths, is once again hitting many cities, towns and rural areas in the U.S. and elsewhere worldwide. The U.S. capitalist rulers and their for-profit health care industry are no more prepared for this wave than they were last spring.

Hospitals are filling up, and officials in states run by Democrats and Republicans alike say they're not ready. They

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Defending the Cuban Revolution, strengthening US working people

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

An article headlined "Would a Joe Biden White House Be Better for Cuba?" appeared in last week's print edition of the *Militant*. It was retracted and not included in the online edition after the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party pointed out to the editor that the article was contrary to the longstanding editorial positions of the *Militant*. An editorial concerning the article appears in this issue (see page 9).

I welcomed the editor's invitation to explain, on behalf of the SWP's elected leadership, why the article represented neither the party's views nor our decadeslong course of action.

The problems begin with the headline itself. It poses a question the article never addresses. Moreover, it is a question that can't be answered. What is there to say except, "If Joe Biden becomes the next president of the United States, we'll see."

What we do know are two things: First, whether Biden or Donald

Trump is installed in the White House on Jan. 20, 2021, the revolutionary leadership of Cuba will continue on the course they've followed from 1959 to today, through 12 U.S. administrations. As they have affirmed many times over the decades, Cuba's sovereignty and

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Inside

Canada's rulers responsible for Native, commercial fisher conflict 2

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Thousands in Belarus keep fighting to topple regime 4

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Dominion strike continues as workers win solidarity

Laid off NY Remington workers fight for severance, vacation pay

Canada’s rulers responsible for Native, commercial fisher conflict

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Overcoming divisions among exploited fishermen in the Maritime Provinces and defending Indigenous lobster fishermen from assault was the subject of a Militant Labor Forum here Oct. 23.

Native Mi’kmaq fishermen have condemned non-Indigenous fishermen for ransacking and incinerating their lobster pounds, cutting their lines and organizing flotillas aimed at intimidating them on the waters of St. Mary’s Bay in the last month.

Spokesmen for non-Indigenous fishermen denounced the attacks, but claim the Mi’kmaq’s fishing operations are threatening the conservation of lobster stocks and consequently their livelihoods.

The dispute follows the decision of the Sipekne’katik First Nation, which is the second largest Mi’kmaq band in Nova Scotia, to launch its own self-regulated commercial fishery in September outside the government-designated fishing season.

“The unions should demand that Ottawa act now to defend Mi’kmaq fishermen from attack,” Michel Dugré, a member of the Communist League, told the meeting. He described how the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did nothing to protect them.

“Labor needs to put forward demands that unite all fishermen with other working people in a struggle against our common enemy, this country’s capitalist rulers and their government.”

Dugré said the big-business media

portray the dispute as a race war between fishermen. In fact both Indigenous and non-Indigenous working people are severely affected by the capitalist crisis.

“The large majority of fishermen, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are exploited,” Dugré said, “by the fishing and distribution companies, the processing factories, and banks to which they are greatly indebted.”

The current dispute stems from a 1999 Supreme Court ruling that Natives have the right to catch fish outside the legal fishing season. However, the court also gave the government the power to limit their fishing to allow them only a “moderate living.” Ottawa then banned the Mi’kmaq from selling their catch. Cops routinely raided Mi’kmaq fishermen, seizing their lobster traps and equipment.

Eventually the government conceded that First Nation fishermen could develop their own commercial fishing fleets, but then last year insisted they comply with federal limits on the fishing season.

Ottawa’s system of issuing a limited number of lobster fishing licenses — that cost anywhere from \$800,000 to \$3 million for resale — combined with rising costs of production, make it harder for non-Native fishermen to make ends meet. Indigenous fishermen can’t afford to purchase licenses.

The buying and selling of licenses has concentrated their ownership into the hands of a small number of wealthy fishermen.

“Labor needs to put forward a per-



Toronto Star/Steve McKinley

Working fishermen in Canada have been hard hit by world crisis and Ottawa’s lobster permit system, which increase competition, class stratification and discrimination against Native fishermen. Fight is needed to defend common interests of all fishermen against the capitalist rulers.

spective to unite exploited fishermen in a struggle to advance their common interests,” Dugré said. “It should demand that lobster fishermen be paid a price that guarantees an income high enough to meet their costs of production and ensure a decent living.” They also need cheap government credit to cover their substantial expenses for boats and equipment.

“Ottawa must end the system of lobster fishing licenses with full compensation to current owners for the cost of them,” Dugré said.

Oppressive legacy for Native people

As a result of historic discrimination, Native peoples earn much less on average than other Canadians, have higher rates of infant mortality and shorter life expectancy.

“Affirmative action to ensure jobs for Native people at union wages is central to overcoming the divisions among working people,” Dugré said. Alongside this, unions must demand that Ottawa fund a program of public works to create jobs for the millions of unemployed.

A rally in support of the Mi’kmaq fishermen drew 1,000 people in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Oct. 18. Other actions were held in Toronto and Vancouver.

“The problem Indigenous people face is not ‘systemic racism’ as middle class radicals argue,” Dugré told the forum. There isn’t a rise in anti-Native sentiment among working people, but sharpening competition among exploited producers that is the source of the recent conflicts.

“By waging a struggle against the capitalist rulers and their government,” Dugré concluded, “working people can lay the basis to build our own party, a labor party, that can lead a mass movement of millions to establish a workers and farmers government.”

Correction

In the Nov. 9 *Militant*, the article “SWP Campaign Wages Fight for Political Rights in Washington” incorrectly identified the fight waged by the Familias Unidas por la Justicia union against boss surveillance as being in Yakima Valley. It was in Skagit Valley. The article also should have said that the Federal Election Commission refused to grant the SWP an exemption in 2017, not 2016. The photo caption should have said Angie Lara is a member of Trabajadores Unidos por la Justicia, not the Familias Unidas union.

THE MILITANT

Thousands protest cop brutality in Nigeria

For the past month workers and youth in Nigeria have been demanding the abolition of the murderous special police unit SARS. The ‘Militant’ builds solidarity with those fighting cop brutality and oppression all over the world and helps to point a working-class way forward.



AP Photo/Sunday Alamba
Protest in Lagos, Nigeria, Oct. 20, over cop brutality. Army later killed several protesters.

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

Expand reach of the ‘Militant’

Continued from front page
licans, the Socialist Workers Party is a working-class party, one that joins every fight that is in the interest of workers and farmers all year round.

“Workers need our own party, a labor party based on the unions. It would organize working people to fight for jobs, for safety on the job, and in our millions to take political power and establish a workers and farmers government,” SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy told autoworkers when she campaigned at the Ford assembly plant on Chicago’s South Side Oct. 28.

Kennedy, a cashier at Walmart in Dallas, had worked at the Ford plant in 2012. Ford workers bought 17 copies of the *Militant*, two subscriptions and two books.

Joe Sanchez, who has worked at the plant for 10 years, told Kennedy that the bosses aren’t doing much to protect workers against the spread of COVID. “All they say is, ‘Wear your masks,’” he said. The SWP calls for workers to fight for control of production, not the bosses, so we control line speeds, the space between workers and implement whatever other measures are necessary to work safely.

The party calls on workers and their unions to fight for government-funded cradle-to-grave health care. Production of the drug cocktail President Donald Trump received when he had COVID-19 should be ramped up and made available free of charge to everyone who needs it, Kennedy said.

Kennedy talked with assembly line worker Dennis Moody about the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd. “There was looting in my neighborhood on the South Side. I don’t like Black Lives Matter,” Moody said.

“The Black Lives Matter signs at those protests reflect growing opposition to police brutality,” Kennedy said. “But the leadership of Black Lives Matter groups, antifa and middle-class radicals undermine the massive protests by promoting looting and senseless violence. That turns off working people and the actions get smaller and smaller.”

We can learn from the civil rights movement, Kennedy said. “Led by Black workers, it became a massive

movement, strong and disciplined enough to defeat Jim Crow segregation in the South. It was broad and multinational, and transformed the way working people think.”

Moody subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Building on success of campaign

Tens of thousands of people learned about the Socialist Workers Party through meeting Kennedy, running mate Malcolm Jarrett, and 23 local candidates coast to coast. Many received the party’s platform in discussions with campaigners at their doorsteps or farms, in big cities and rural areas, on picket lines and at protests. Some learned about the campaign through local newspapers.

Sharon, Pennsylvania’s *Herald* Nov. 2 featured an article by reporter David Dye, who accompanied Jarrett when he talked to workers on their



Omari Musa, right, SWP candidate for delegate to U.S. Congress from D.C., at Sept. 30 protest there in solidarity with people of West Papua against deadly Indonesian government attacks.

doorsteps in Sharon the month before. Retired worker Jerry Meszaros told Jarrett, “You work all them years, and for what you pay into retirement over 55 years, it isn’t all that much.” “Meszaros said he appreciated being able to at least have the discussion, and the two main candidates voters would



Autoworker Joe Sanchez talks with SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy at Ford Motor plant gate Oct. 28 about need for workers control of production and fight for job safety.

choose between may not be the most ideal,” the *Herald* reported. ““They say they’re for us to get your vote. But do they really care about the little guy?” Meszaros said.”

Jarrett’s Oct. 29 visit to Marshalltown, Iowa, a rural town of 27,000 people,

made the front page of the *Times-Republican*. The article reported on Jarrett campaigning during a shift change at the JBS hog slaughterhouse, noting that “the party is fighting for a working-class program to build unions and defend interests of employees.” Four workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

“It’s refreshing to meet people who think the way I do,” Bradley Johnson, a welder at Caterpillar, told Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and Ilona Gersh when they campaigned in Rantoul, a couple hours south of Chicago Oct. 31.

Johnson said lately Caterpillar bosses have been forcing them to work 12-hour shifts, in violation of the contract. “Then they wonder why people are tired and burned out.”

Workers around the world face similar conditions, Craine said, showing him an article in the *Militant* about coal miners in Colombia, on strike against “death shifts” — the El Cerrejón mine bosses’ attempt to make them work 12-hour shifts, 21 days a month.

The labor movement needs to fight to shorten the workweek, with no cut in pay, said Gersh. Johnson agreed.

Johnson said bosses try to justify the long hours by saying there’s not enough skilled workers. When he was in high school, Johnson said, there was vocational training that is no longer offered. Craine pointed out that today young workers are pressed to go thousands of dollars into debt to get this type of training.

Johnson subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Party financed by working people

Steve Warshell writes from Miami about the success in winning new readers and contributors to the SWP Party-Building Fund there. “In Hal- landale Beach we sold a book and

received a \$15 donation from a UPS worker. He liked the call for a labor party,” Warshell said.

In North Miami, Warshell knocked on the door of Widmark Joseph, who is Haitian, and does road construction and repair.

“Nobody else is doing this,” Joseph told Warshell. “Certainly no other party is knocking on my door asking me what I think.” During that visit and a follow-up one, he gave \$10 to the Party-Building Fund “to encourage you to keep on campaigning.” Many workers understand why the SWP accepts no funding from capitalist businesses, but instead relies on the support of working people who contribute whatever they can to help the work of the party.

Joseph purchased the French-language edition of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*.

The fall drive to win 1,200 new readers of the *Militant* and revolutionary books and to raise \$120,000 to build the Socialist Workers Party continues through Nov. 24. At the end of week 5 we have sold 810 subscriptions and 736 books and received \$61,910 for the fund.

Join in expanding the readership of the *Militant*! Help introduce friends, relatives, neighbors and other working people to the party. Contribute to the fund. For more information, see the directory on page 8 for the party unit nearest you, or contact the *Militant* at themilitant@mac.com.



Tens of thousands of workers learned about the Socialist Workers Party as a result of bold campaigning with presidential ticket and other candidates. Vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett was featured on front page of Marshalltown, Iowa, *Times-Republican* Oct. 30, and Sharon, Pennsylvania, *Herald* Nov. 2.

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive Sept. 26-Nov. 24 (Week 5)		
Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$7,500	\$4,500
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$6,504
Chicago	\$13,000	\$5,282
Dallas	\$2,750	\$950
Lincoln	\$325	\$166
Los Angeles	\$12,500	\$6,544
Louisville*	\$5,400	\$4,281
Miami	\$3,750	\$965
New York	\$15,500	\$8,205
N. New Jersey	\$6,000	\$3,327
Oakland	\$12,750	\$8,009
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$1,060
Pittsburgh	\$3,000	\$1,150
Seattle	\$12,500	\$4,248
Twin Cities	\$4,250	\$2,509
Wash., D.C.	\$6,000	\$3,710
Other		\$500
Total	\$119,725	\$61,910
Should Be	\$120,000	\$75,000
*raised quota		

Oberlin College aims to crush small store owner

BY ROY LANDERSEN

A battle in the northern Ohio town of Oberlin with substantial stakes for working people has reached a new stage. Issues of wealth and power, class privilege and social standing are at its core.

On Nov. 10, a state appeals court in Akron, Ohio, will hear arguments in a protracted and costly legal battle waged by Oberlin College to drive the Gibson family and their small bakery in Oberlin out of business. Using the appeals process to keep alive their smear of the bakery owners as “racist,” the college administration and trustees are trying to reverse a \$44 million judgment against the college won by the Gibson family in a unanimous jury verdict in June 2019. Under Ohio statutory limits, the trial judge reduced the judgment to \$31.5 million.

A counter appeal by the Gibsons seeks reinstatement of the full \$44 million in costs and damages originally awarded them by the jury. They argue that the statutory cap is unconstitutional.

During the trial the family won widespread support from working people in the region for standing up to the college, which dominates the small town. College authorities, and students who followed their lead, thought they could launch malicious attacks on the small-business owners with impunity. After the jury found against it, the college first demanded and failed to get a new trial, and then launched its appeal, dragging out legal proceedings in an effort to crush the family’s livelihood.

The case stems from a student’s attempt to shoplift from Gibson’s bakery on Nov. 9, 2016.

Allyn Gibson, a store clerk and the son and grandson of the owners, tried to stop a student who offered a fake ID to buy liquor and then attempted to steal bottles of wine. Outside, Gibson was set upon by the student and two friends. The three, all of whom are Black, later admitted to the theft in court and testified that no racism was involved in Gibson’s attempt to stop them stealing from the family’s business.

All three graduated from elite high schools and attended Oberlin College, where students pay \$75,000 a year for tuition and housing. In 2017, the *Grape*, a student publication, ran an article, “The Culture of Theft,” on rampant shoplifting by students, acting out of a sense of entitlement, from town stores run by struggling business owners.

For two days after the shoplifting incident, college officials, led by Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo, helped orchestrate student protests calling for a boycott of Gibson’s bakery, and attempted to paint — without a shred of evidence — the three students as victims of racism, and the Gibson family as having a history of racial discrimination.

The college then cut business ties with the bakery, although the Gibsons had supplied the college cafeteria with baked goods for over a century without a single claim of discrimination being raised. College administrators demanded the Gibsons treat their students different than other youth in the town by calling college officials instead of police if their students were caught shoplifting.

In its brief to the court of appeals, the Oberlin College alleges the trial featured

a “cascade of errors.” At issue, it claims, is “the principle that debate on public issues must be ‘uninhibited, robust and wide open.’” It says it had a duty to “respect the speech rights of its students.”

But the constitutional right to free speech was never an issue in the trial. The Gibsons sued the *college*, not the students, not for what it said, but its actions aimed at crushing the small business.

“Oberlin’s theory is that it has a license to defame without regard to how damaging and vicious the lie is as long as the defamatory statements are made in connection with a protest,” says the Gibsons’ brief to the court of appeals.

The school has tried to bolster its claim of defense of First Amendment rights by obtaining friend of the court briefs from the NAACP, various media and professional associations. But the briefs are notable for failing to address any of the issues argued in front of the jury during the trial.

College faces further challenges

This year Oberlin College has been beset by a series of other challenges of importance to working people and advocates of labor and democratic and human rights.

The school faces a lawsuit by Alice Blumenfeld, a former dance instructor who is suing for discrimination. She was employed as a visiting assistant professor of dance at Oberlin between 2018 and 2020, but was then denied a tenured position despite her qualifications. She says she was told, “We can’t just hire another white woman from the Midwest with a husband!” by Ann Cooper Albright, chair of the Oberlin dance department.

In February the college administration faced down protests by hundreds of students and workers over the layoffs of more than 100 campus workers, members of the United Auto Workers union. Erik Villar, chair of UAW Local 2192, noted that some of those sacked had worked there for over 30 years, as had some of their parents and grandparents.

While the college administration and

Thousands in Belarus keep fighting to topple regime



Hawa Hiba

Tens of thousands rallied in Minsk and across Belarus Nov. 1, in the face of government threats and police firing live “warning” shots in the air. Some 240 protesters were arrested. Millions have marched to demand the resignation of hated President Alexander Lukashenko, who declared himself the winner of flagrantly rigged elections Aug. 9.

Several thousand also marched to Kurapaty, above, on the outskirts of Minsk, where at least 30,000 people were executed from 1937 to 1941 under the dictatorial regime of Joseph Stalin when Belarus was part of the Soviet Union. Some historians say the toll was many times higher.

“The people’s memory lasts longer than a life of a dictatorship” and “Stop torturing your people” read some of the banners. Riot police tried to disperse the rally by throwing stun grenades into the crowd. As part of defending his increasingly authoritarian 26-year rule, Lukashenko has sought to rely on a strong alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin, while at the same time seeking to bury the bloody history of the Stalinist counterrevolution, which overturned many of the gains of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

In response to a call for a nationwide strike beginning Oct. 26, the opposition managed to create “some hotbeds of strikes at factories,” Alexander Yaroshuk, a leader of the Congress of Democratic Unions, an association of independent labor unions, told The Associated Press Oct. 31. That was an achievement, he said, given that “KGB officers [Belarus political police] have flooded factory shops and raised pressure on strike organizing committees.” Independent union leaders have been arrested and some workers who backed the strike call were fired.

Lukashenko declared Oct. 30 his government “will not back down.” For the past 13 weeks, neither have the mass protests demanding he resign.

— ROY LANDERSEN

trustees are out to break the Gibson family, they readily came to a monetary settlement last January with a former professor, Joy Karega. She promoted anti-Semitic conspiracy theories on her public Facebook site, which college administrators at first defended as a matter of free speech. She was dismissed in 2016 for refusing to cooperate with

a college investigation into her conduct.

Last June, a federal appeals court reinstated a case in which a male student at Oberlin College charges that he was expelled in a rigged sexual assault hearing under rules that resulted in a 100% conviction rate. Dean Meredith Raimondo was the author of the rules and Title IX coordinator at the time.

After new Islamist attacks, Paris responds with repression

BY SETH GALINSKY

Since the opening Sept. 2 of the trial of 14 people accused of aiding the deadly anti-Semitic assault in 2015 on the Paris offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, there have been three brutal assaults and killings in France by Islamist terrorists. Three people were stabbed to death at the Notre-Dame Basilica in Nice Oct. 29 by 21-year-old Tunisian Brahim Aouissaoui, who shouted “Allahu akbar,” Arabic for “God is great,” as he attacked.

A few days after the start of the trial a man wielding a knife wounded several people on the street near the old offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, after the magazine reprinted its 2015 cartoons that have demeaning depictions of the Muslim Prophet Mohammad. Then on Oct. 16, Abdoulakh Anzorov beheaded history teacher Samuel Paty in a Paris suburb after he had displayed the cartoons in a class on free speech.

These attacks and killings are also part of a frontal attack on freedom of

speech and the press and on the right to worship — rights needed by working people. And they are intertwined with Jew-hatred promoted by reactionary Islamist groups.

“I can only denounce as strongly as possible this act of cowardice against the innocent,” Abdallah Zekri, director-general of the French Council of Muslim Worship, told the press, one of many Muslim activists and groups in France that have condemned the attacks.

Thirteen people were murdered in the 2015 attack on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* by brothers Cherif and Said Koucahi after the magazine published the satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, as it had earlier of the pope and other religious leaders. Two days later the Koucahis’ associate, Amedy Coulibaly, who said he was acting on behalf of Islamic State, murdered four shoppers at the Hyper Cacher kosher market.

After the Oct. 29 murders at the basilica, Daniel Teboul, chief rabbi of Nice,

said that Jewish schools and synagogues in this southern French city would be closed for the time being and that kosher shops would be on the alert. “All of us feel threatened,” he said.

According to French government figures, there were 687 anti-Semitic incidents in France in 2019 — including physical attacks and defacing of cemeteries and synagogues — a 27% increase over the year before.

Gov’t assault on political rights

French President Emmanuel Macron claims that the French state is defending “freedom of speech, the freedom to believe and not believe.” But in reality the imperialist government is using the terrorist attacks to further fan the flames of anti-Muslim prejudice, beef up the state’s repressive apparatus, and pass laws that further undermine democratic rights.

Macron is pressing for a ban on home schooling, a measure aimed at Muslim

Continued on page 5

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Dominion strike continues, as workers win solidarity

Negotiations resumed Oct. 29 between Loblaw Companies Limited, which owns the Dominion grocery store chain, and Unifor Local 597, representing 1,400 workers on strike at Dominion stores in Newfoundland. These talks, the first since the strike began Aug. 22, ended the next day. “The company has not made a single improvement to their initial three-year offer,” Unifor spokesperson Chris MacDonald told the press.

The strike began after workers overwhelmingly rejected the company’s offer of a 1 Canadian dollar an hour wage increase (75 cents) over three years. In the middle of negotiations the company ended the CA\$2 hourly wage increase it had earlier instituted as pandemic pay. Strikers are also demanding that more workers be made full time. Eighty percent of the workers are part time. Most earn only the minimum wage of CA\$12.15 an hour.

On Oct. 26 the Newfoundland provincial Supreme Court granted an injunction against picketing at the Loblaw Distribution Centre, but refused to extend the injunction to other company-owned sites. On Oct. 28 strikers took down their picket line at the Loblaw-owned Weston Foods bakery in St. John’s after police threatened them with arrest, even though their picket line is not covered by the injunction.

The strikers are winning solidarity. “Your fight to reverse the pandemic wage rollback and for the right to full-time hours and decent wages deserves the support of working people everywhere,” members of International Association of Machinists Local 11 at Avcorp, an aircraft plant in Delta, British Columbia, wrote to strikers Oct. 21.

“This card is to show our support for the fight to get the \$2,” a dozen members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 500 at the Cargill meat processing plant in Chambly, Quebec, wrote to strikers. “Wages are too low. They have to go up,” said one of many handwritten messages on the card.

Into their 11th week on strike, Dominion workers need more solidarity. Send messages of support and donations to

Unifor Local 597, 301-55 Bond St., P.O. Box 922 Station C, St. John’s, NL A1C 5L7, Canada, or info@unifor597.ca.

—Beverly Bernardo

Laid off NY Remington workers fight for severance, vacation pay

ILION, N.Y. — “We’ll be out here until we get paid what we are owed,” Jamie Rudwall, United Mine Workers of America District 2 representative, told 100 people at an Oct. 28 rally here. Most were among the 585 workers laid off from their jobs making firearms after Remington Outdoor Company filed for bankruptcy and its owner sold the plant.

“They are not honoring the contractual agreement,” including severance pay for laid-off workers and unused vacation pay, said Jeffrey Madison, UMW Local 717 president.

“Some of the guys and girls that I work with have life-threatening conditions that they need medications for and now I don’t know how they’re going to get that covered,” Mark Bedworth told the *Wall Street Journal*. The plant, which is in this town of about 8,000 people, is one of the oldest continuously operating manufacturing sites in the U.S.

“Years ago there was no mandatory overtime. Now we are working 10 hours a day while there are layoffs,” Terry Bates, a 36-year employee, told the *Militant*. “The [Mohawk] valley is dead. There are no other jobs, just two small factories.”

“They are legally obligated to give us our severance and vacation pay. We will not stop fighting until we get that,” said Jacquie Sweeney, recording secretary for Local 717. The bosses are “filling their pockets and emptying ours. Sala-



Militant/Alex Huinil

Laid-off members of United Mine Workers of America rally outside Remington plant in Ilion, New York, Oct. 28, as bosses use bankruptcy to deny severance pay, unused vacation benefits.

ried workers are now doing our jobs.” These rallies, she added, are “to inform others that this can happen to anyone.”

Joe Allen came to the rally from Albany with this reporter, both of us freight rail conductors and members of SMART-TD Local 394. “It’s wrong that people can’t get rid of their student loans in bankruptcy, but an employer can avoid paying obligations that effect hundreds of lives,” Allen said.

—Jacob Perasso

Quebec cement truck drivers fight for equal wages

ST-HUBERT, Quebec — Twenty-five cement truck drivers locked out by Demix Beton in this Montreal suburb are fighting for equal wages and benefits with drivers working for the same company in nearby Longueuil and Lasalle. The drivers belong to the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

The locked-out workers have a different contract because the company they previously worked for was bought by Demix Beton some time ago. Their contract expired April 30. “We make \$3 an hour less than the other drivers,” Rejean Robichaud said on the picket line Oct. 19. “The company’s offer for four years will leave us even further behind.”

On Sept. 24 workers began what they had planned as a 24-hour walkout, after unanimously rejecting the bosses’ last offer. Within three hours the company locked them out and ended negotiations.

Robichaud said that locked-out workers fighting for a contract at the Jean Coutu pharmacy chain warehouse have come to their line twice, as have Steelworkers who work for Rio Tinto Iron & Titanium in nearby Sorel. The Steelworkers also donated 2,000 Canadian dollars (\$1,500).

—Joe Young

After new Islamist attacks, Paris responds with repression

Continued from page 4

households; limits on foreign funding of religious centers; and a mandate that religious associations take an oath of allegiance to France. He has proposed legislation that would allow the government to outlaw any group that promotes “Islamic separatism.”

The French government already

bars its employees from wearing the hijab while at work, claiming it undermines “secularism.”

“It is very clearly France that is attacked,” Macron claimed after the Nice killings, while announcing he was deploying 4,000 more soldiers around the country to “protect” schools and religious sites. The fact is, Macron, like

the ruling class he serves, tries to cover up the real history of Jew-hatred and assaults against Jews fostered and reproduced by capitalist social relations in France for decades.

France has the third largest Jewish population worldwide, after Israel and the U.S.

After Macron proposed new repressive measures following the killing of Paty, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for a boycott of French products, claiming that the French government was leading a “hate campaign” against Islam. His government later condemned the attack in Nice, but said the French government had the responsibility “to avoid further inflammatory rhetoric against Muslims.”

“This series of murderous attacks in France after the opening of the trial of those accused in the deadly assault on *Charlie Hebdo* must be taken seriously and opposed by working people the world over,” said Malcolm Jarrett, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president in the Nov. 3 elections. “It is in the interests of all working people to oppose Jew-hatred.”

“But the repressive measures being pushed by the French imperialist government are not in the interests of working people,” Jarrett continued. “Our party is for whatever helps working people organize and act together — whatever their religious beliefs or nationality — to defend our interests. That includes defending the right to free speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to worship, free from interference by the state.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 20, 1995

UNITED NATIONS — For the fourth year in a row, the Cuban government used the platform of the United Nations to blast Washington’s economic war and called for an end to the U.S. embargo of the island.

It presented a resolution titled “The Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba,” which passed 117 to 3 on November 2, with 38 abstentions.

The three previous resolutions called on member states to refrain from applying unilateral measures limiting free trade and navigation. Despite this, the new resolution stated, “new measures of this type continue being promulgated and applied.”

The Helms/Burton bill further tightening the embargo recently passed the U.S. Congress. It was condemned by representatives of several nations.



November 20, 1970

The starve-out strategy of Northwest Airlines against striking members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks resembles in some ways a miniature model of General Motors’ strategy against striking auto workers. The Northwest strike began July 8, four months ago. Company officials say flights are about 20 percent of the normal schedule. They have laid off an estimated 5,000 nonstriking workers.

The strikers — almost three-quarters of them women — are determined to win. A male clerk with 20 years at Northwest said, “If the job is necessary, and they must think it is, you should earn a living wage doing it.”

This airline strike, like the GM strike, involves an entire industry and can only be settled in the interest of the strikers when the unions move to an industry-wide shutdown instead of a partial or “selective” strike.



November 17, 1945

NEW YORK, Nov. 9 — Farrell Dobbs, mayoralty candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, gained 4,267 votes in the municipal election here November 6, a four hundred percent increase over the Trotskyist candidate in 1941. No count is as yet available for the votes of Louise Simpson, candidate for city council.

The Trotskyist candidates ran on a program of revolutionary socialism. Their main slogan was for independent working class political action and the formation by the labor movement of an independent labor party. The Trotskyist candidates declared their unconditional support of all militant strike struggles.

They called for government operation of idle plants under workers’ control, the 30-hour week with no reduction in pay, as well as government projects, including low-rent housing, to meet the problem of unemployment.

Fight to defend political rights

Continued from front page
paign Director John Studer.

On Oct. 19 the secretary of state's office informed the party that the names and addresses of the 2020 SWP presidential electors would be released publicly, unless the campaign got a court order barring them from doing so.

"The questions involved here are important for all working people," said Seattle SWP leader Mary Martin, who chaired the meeting. "We have sought legal counsel to block this release and have launched a political fight against it." The campaign has retained representation by Barnard Iglitzin and Lavitt, a well-known labor law firm in Seattle.

"There is a long, documented history of disruption, spying and acts of violence against the Socialist Workers Party's campaign-ers and our offices," Martin said. In 1984 the SWP headquarters in Seattle was firebombed. This year, threats to kill its candidates and their supporters have been made and a threat to burn down the party headquarters and kill everyone in it was left on the campaign office phone.

Making the electors' personal information public would open them up to harassment and worse, from cops, bosses, rightists or middle-class radicals who increasingly seek to shut down those who they disagree with.

This important political rights fight was also discussed at Militant Labor Forums across the country, launching a national campaign to get statements of support for the Washington state fight and to rapidly raise the \$20,000 needed for legal and other expenses. Over 30 people at the Seattle meeting contributed \$2,891. Together with collections at the other forums \$20,420 has been raised so far.

Martin described the multiyear political battle it took for the SWP to win exemption from having to turn over the names and personal information

of campaign contributors to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission and the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, despite extensive evidence of both government and private harassment.

'Threat to First Amendment rights'

Michael Krinsky, senior attorney in the constitutional rights law firm that has represented the SWP for many decades, wrote in a statement: "The threat to First Amendment freedoms from the threatened disclosures is real, both to persons wishing to associate with the SWP and, by the precedent it would set, to many others wishing to associate with causes and organizations that may be the target of governmental or private hostility."

Alyson Kennedy described the positive response the Socialist Workers Party campaign has received while she and running mate Malcolm Jarrett have campaigned in some 90 cities and towns, marching in protests, walking union picket lines and talking with workers on their doorsteps and at

Walmart parking lots. (See Kennedy's talk on front page.)

'Utmost importance to workers'

Studer noted that not just the rights of the party were involved but political freedoms conquered by working people in blood.

"The communists — a small minority — must fight to be heard," Socialist Workers Party National Secretary James P. Cannon wrote in the *Militant* in 1931. "Democratic rights are of the utmost importance to the workers in their struggle for organization."

Studer reviewed the proud history of the party in defending free speech, political rights and victims of government and boss attacks. "It's part and parcel of who we are, a party of workers, participating in the struggles of the working class and advancing a course toward

As we go to press the Socialist Workers Party received notice from its attorneys in Seattle that the first round in the fight to prevent the state from disclosing the names and addresses of its presidential electors has been won. The secretary of state's office now says it will not release any information unless a new, unambiguous request to do so is filed. State officials continue to assert, however, that if they get such a request they will hand the information over unless the party gets a court order. The *Militant* will continue to fight to win support against this threat to political rights.

'First Amendment freedoms threatened by disclosures'

The threatened disclosure of the names and addresses of Socialist Workers Party Presidential electors ignores a fundamental constitutional principle: as the Supreme Court stated in its great decision of the 1950s protecting civil rights organizations in the South, "inviolability of privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs."

That surely is the case here. In my law firm's many decades of representing the SWP, we have seen and proven in court and before administrative bodies (such as the Federal Election Commission) a long pattern of governmental harassment and also, importantly, hostility by private individuals and groups that has gone well beyond debate and disagreement to encompass economic reprisal, loss of employment, and physical threat.

Far from being a thing of the past, SWP members have received death threats during this current Presidential campaign in the State of Washington.

The threat to First Amendment freedoms from the threatened disclosures is real, both to persons wishing to associate with the SWP and, by the precedent it would set, to the many others wishing to associate with causes and organizations that may be the target of governmental or private hostility.

There is no overriding, countervailing public need for disclosure that could possibly justify disregard of the fundamental constitutional principle at stake in these circumstances.

Michael Krinsky,
Partner, Rabinowitz Boudin Standard Krinsky & Lieberman



Militant/Barry Fatland

Seattle forum Oct. 30 on political rights fight in Washington. From left, John Studer, SWP national campaign director; Alyson Kennedy, presidential candidate; Mary Martin, Seattle SWP.

ending capitalist exploitation," he said. "That's why the wrath of the ruling class comes down on us, going back to the founding of the communist movement in this country."

He described how Cannon — as a leader of the Communist Party before being expelled by followers of Joseph Stalin who overturned the Bolsheviks' revolutionary course — was instrumental in forming the International Labor Defense in 1925.

He met with Big Bill Haywood, a former Industrial Workers of the World leader, who had moved to Moscow after being convicted in a frame-up trial in Chicago and sentenced to 20 years in prison. "We worked out the plan and conception of the International Labor Defense as a nonpartisan body which would defend any member of the working class movement, regardless of his opinion or affiliation, if he came under persecution by capitalist law," Cannon wrote in *The First Ten Years of American Communism*.

The attorney for Haywood and over 100 other IWW members in the Chicago trial was George Vanderveer, Studer said. Vanderveer was the founder of the law firm that is representing the SWP in Seattle today.

SWP members helped build and lead the Teamsters union in Minneapolis and across the Midwest in the 1930s, Studer said. For this, and for leading labor opposition to U.S. entry into the second imperialist world war, 18 Teamsters and SWP leaders were indicted and imprisoned in the 1940s.

In the 1960s and '70s deep changes in social consciousness affected the working class as the fight against Jim Crow segregation, the war in Vietnam and for the development of the modern women's liberation spread, he said. This created an opportunity for the party to launch a political campaign and court suit that helped expose decades of FBI spying and disruption against the party, the labor movement, and the fight for Black rights. "FBI spies amassed 10 million pages of files on the SWP alone," Studer said.

The party won the lawsuit, dealing a blow to the U.S. rulers' political police. They also won an additional court ruling that barred the FBI and other government agencies from having access to the names and files they had accumulated illegally.

In response to the spreading radicalization among working people, liberals at that time sought to clean up the image of the capitalist parties as rife with corruption and big-business control, by

promoting "campaign finance reform." The cornerstone of this attack on political rights was disclosure laws mandating the public release of names and addresses of those giving funds to political candidates, saying this would provide more "transparency."

It was a fraud. It papered over the class reality that fundamental economic, political and military power is in the hands of the capitalists and that the ruling rich could always find ways around the laws, while working-class parties would have to submit to onerous red tape and face exposure of the names and addresses of their members and supporters.

This issue had arisen during the fight against Jim Crow segregation in the South in the 1950s, Studer said. The segregationist government in Alabama passed a law requiring the NAACP to turn over the names and addresses of all its members, which would have opened them to racist retaliation. The NAACP launched a campaign against the law and successfully got it overturned in federal court.

SWP wins fight against 'disclosure'

Using this precedent, and the evidence exposed by the party's lawsuit against FBI spying, the SWP won an exemption from turning over the names, addresses and workplaces of campaign contributors and its vendors, beginning in 1974, Studer said. The SWP was the only party ever to win exemption by the Federal Election Commission. But in 2017, the FEC voted to end the party's exemption, claiming these attacks were mostly a thing of the past.

"The fight in Washington state is an important contribution to winning political space for the working class to debate, organize and fight," Studer said. "It helps expose all the disclosure laws for what they are, an attack on the political rights of working people. It also helps lay the groundwork for a fight to win back the exemption from the federal disclosure law that the SWP lost three years ago."

More statements of support are coming in. Call to Action on Puerto Rico in New York condemned the decision of the Washington state government to release the names and addresses of the SWP electors. "Defenders of Puerto Rico's inalienable right to national sovereignty and independence know only too well how the government uses personal information to harass, intimidate and even threaten the lives of social justice activists," they wrote Oct. 31.

Send statements to swpseattle@gmail.com.

Defending Cuban Revolution, strengthening US working people

Continued from front page
revolutionary principles are not up for discussion, much less negotiation. They are willing at any time to explore ways to resolve problems of mutual concern between Cuba and Washington — or any other government — but only on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Former Cuban President Fidel Castro explained this course with clarity in his 2016 article “Brother Obama.” That short piece by him had nothing to do with any U.S. election or with one political party versus another, which was how it was quoted and used in last week’s *Militant*. Fidel was affirming the unbroken record of the Cuban people in defense of their revolution: “Nobody should be under the illusion that the people of this dignified and selfless country will renounce the glory, the rights, or the spiritual wealth they have gained with the development of education, science and culture. ... [W]e are capable of producing the food and material riches we need with the efforts and intelligence of our people. We do not need the empire to give us anything.”

Second, for our part, irrespective of who occupies the White House for the next four years, the Socialist Workers Party too will continue on the course we have followed from 1959 to today. We will do everything in our power to make the truth about Cuba’s socialist revolution known to working people in the United States and throughout the world, and organize them to defend what workers and farmers have achieved in Cuba by winning and *using* state power.

Acting together with others, regardless of views on this or other U.S. elections, the SWP will continue to fight each and every aspect of the U.S. ruling class’s political, diplomatic, and economic war against the Cuban people. We will celebrate as a victory for the Cuban people, and a victory for working



Above, Guardian; right, Militant/Paul Mailhot

United actions have been at center of Socialist Workers Party’s defense of Cuban Revolution for six decades. Above, April 15, 1961, picket at U.N. called by Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which organized in U.S. and Canada to halt attacks on Cuba. Inset, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters, right, and party’s 2008 presidential candidate Róger Calero carry banner in September 2008 march to free Cuban 5 in Washington, D.C. Also participating were IFCO/Pastors for Peace, National Network on Cuba, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Green Party, D.C. Metro Committee to Free the Five and others.



people everywhere, any step by any administration, Republican or Democrat, that loosens the imperialist chokehold aimed at overturning the Cuban workers’ political power.

For the SWP, this is not a matter of solidarity alone. It’s also a life-and-death question for the U.S. working class. Without winning a substantial portion of working people in the United States to understand the Cuban Revolution and seek to emulate the example of Cuban workers and farmers, there will be no victorious socialist revolution in the U.S.

That is not some utopian dream. Emulating the example of the Cuban toilers is integral to the working-class consciousness that can and will develop as we together go through growing struggles of our own. This is an irreplaceable part of the political continuity of the Socialist Workers Party and its leadership, of the SWP’s revolutionary working-class course.

2020 elections and Cuba solidarity

The second major problem with the article “Would a Joe Biden White House

Be Better for Cuba?” is its opening sentences. “A number of groups here and around the country that consider themselves ‘friends of Cuba’ are promoting Joe Biden’s bid for the presidency as a way to relieve the effects of over 60 years of Washington’s economic and political attacks. These groups are organizing car caravans [in Miami], peddling the myth that Democratic administrations ... ‘have been better’ for relations between Washington and Havana.”

The journalistically unacceptable anonymity of the phrase “a number of groups” is plenty reason enough to reject such a lead sentence in a working-class newspaper. But why is it a problem that some friends of Cuba are urging a vote for Joe Biden? Or Donald Trump? Is it a problem that the Socialist Workers Party advocates and organizes everyone we can to support the SWP ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett?

Such differences are hardly limited to the Cuba solidarity movement. They are among the broadest and most important political questions confronting the working class and other oppressed and exploited layers of the U.S. population.

Virtually every individual involved in Cuba solidarity activity supports one or another presidential ticket in 2020. If that fact were a problem that the *Militant* needs to expose and polemicize about, then there would be no political basis for the National Network on Cuba or any other solidarity coalition in any city or region of the country.

If one or another of those parties or individuals sought to impose support for “their” party or their views as a condition for common action around the one issue that brings us together — opposition to the U.S. imperialist rulers’ policies aimed at crushing the Cuban Revolution — that *would* be a problem for the *Militant* to write about. Damaging sectarian factionalism of that kind does regrettably divide Cuba solidarity forces in many countries. But it’s not the issue addressed by the article.

The entire course of the SWP from the earliest months of the revolution has been to build the broadest coalitions possible in defense of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. That began with our collaboration in early 1960 to build the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, work-

ing together with liberal CBS journalist Robert Taber; with members of the U.S. Communist Party; with prominent writers, artists, academics and religious leaders, including James Baldwin, Norman Mailer, Waldo Frank, Carleton Beals and others; with embattled Monroe, North Carolina, NAACP leader Robert Williams; and other Black rights fighters.

In more recent years, the work to build the broadest possible movement in the U.S. and internationally in the successful fight for the freedom

of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and locked away in U.S. federal prisons embodied the same course.

In joining together to help defeat the U.S. rulers’ attempts to destroy the Cuban Revolution, it makes no difference what party someone supports, what your religious views are, or your position on Israel, Palestine, abortion rights, sex and gender issues,

or any other disputed social or political question.

What matters is what you *do* to help involve new forces and advance the common goal. What you *do* to oppose attempts to exclude individuals or groups with whom you disagree on other issues. What you *do* to foster free exchange of political literature, and open, civil debate and discussion.

Trump, Biden and Cuba today

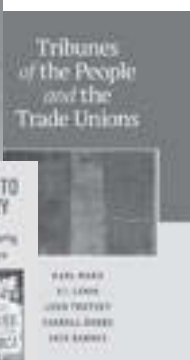
There’s a third way in which the article “Would a Joe Biden White House Be Better for Cuba?” did not express the editorial line of the *Militant* or the positions of the Socialist Workers Party. That is the way in which it presented the differences between executive actions taken by the Barack Obama administration during its second term versus measures imposed by the Trump administration. The latter have included cutting back travel rights in both directions and depriving Cuba of necessities such as oil, access to the international financial system, and remittances from family members living abroad.

Building on decades of bipartisan measures to economically strangle the toilers of Cuba, the White House over the last two years has added some of the most draconian political and economic measures yet taken against Cuba. These have amplified the impact on the Cuban

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Defending Cuban Revolution

Continued from page 7

people of the deepening world capitalist crisis plus the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortages of fuel, medicines, imported food and personal hygiene products are taking a toll on the daily lives of Cuban working people. Last week's article, which didn't even mention these consequences of the Trump administration's course, can seem clueless, even callous.

Instead, the piece concentrated on the case against Biden. Speaking in Miami on Oct. 5, the Democratic Party presidential candidate repeated timeworn lies about the Cuban Revolution. "The [current] administration's approach is not working," Biden said. "Cuba is no closer to freedom and democracy today than it was four years ago. In fact there's more political prisoners, the secret police are as brutal as ever, and Russia is once again a major presence in Cuba."

Being deliberately vague, Biden has also said he would roll back some of the measures taken by the current administration and return to policies carried out by the Obama administration.

It is wise to remember, of course, that campaign promises are easily and frequently discarded once in office, and Trump holds no corner on aggression against the Cuban people. Examples abound: The 1961 U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs. The 1962 missile crisis, when the U.S. government dangled the threat of nuclear annihilation over not only Cuba but also much of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The yearslong program of attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and other central leaders of the revolution. The passage of the Helms-Burton Act in 1996. The 1998 arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of the Cuban Five.

These are only a few of the U.S. rulers' most notorious acts of ag-

gression against Cuba, and all were carried out under Democratic Party administrations.

That doesn't mean, however, that the differences within the U.S. ruling class voiced today by Biden and Trump over how best to undermine the Cuban Revolution are irrelevant to the Cuban people.

If a Biden administration were to reverse the direction of some of Washington's current policies, it would open some breathing room for Cuban working people and their government to more easily deal with the challenges they face. If the boot on their neck pressed less tightly, they would be quite capable of doing that. We would celebrate any motion in that direction, just as we did the steps during Obama's final years in office to free the last three of the Cuban Five incarcerated in U.S. prisons, reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba, make it easier for U.S. residents to travel to the island, and other measures.

Vote for the 'lesser evil'?

For these reasons, it's probably safe to say that a majority of Cuban working people and their leadership are hoping for a Biden electoral victory. Does that mean it's in the interests of U.S. working people to give political support to a capitalist party and its candidates?

That question was neither asked nor answered in the article "Would a Joe Biden White House Be Better for Cuba?" But for class-conscious workers in the U.S., that's the most important question. And the answer is an unequivocal "No."

For well over a century, the great weakness of the working class in the U.S. — workers of all skin colors, religious beliefs and national origins, both men and women — is the fact that the



Paul Weaver/SIPA via AP Images

Workers at Shop-Vac protest in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Sept. 28, after bosses announced 427 layoffs. Capacities of working people are discounted by U.S. rulers, as were those of Cuban workers and farmers who overturned capitalist rule, transforming themselves in the process.

parties the big majority of working people look to for political leadership are instruments of the capitalist class whose wealth and power stem from exploiting us. Trade unions, churches, organizations claiming to speak for the interests of debt-laden farmers, shopkeepers and contract laborers, African Americans, women, Hispanics, immigrants, Indigenous peoples and more — all, almost without exception, are integrated into the political machinery of the capitalist state and its political parties.

The working class has no political instrument of our own, through which we can debate and make our own decisions, independent of the bosses and their Democratic, Republican, or various "third" capitalist parties. To the degree workers and our unions are drawn into political activity, it's to try to engage us in capitalist electoral politics. Is he worse or is she worse? Throw the current "bad" guys out and bring the "good" guys in, then repeat

the cycle with the same results, year after year, decade after decade ... until world capitalism does us all in, in one or another manner.

That profound miseducation will only begin to be bypassed as class battles unfold in factories and other workplaces over wages and working conditions, and struggles for Black rights, women's equality and other burning social issues become more working class in composition and leadership. The course of those struggles and growth of working-class consciousness will at the same time be accelerated by advances in revolutionary struggles in other regions of the world, in the same way the Cuban Revolution educated and helped transform earlier generations of workers and youth in the United States and elsewhere. Today's deepening world capitalist crisis brings those days closer.

That's why the most important aid we can bring to our embattled brothers and sisters in Cuba or anywhere else in the world is to do everything in our power to advance those struggles as we tirelessly educate about the example set by Cuban working people that socialist revolution is not only necessary — it can be made.

Above all, as SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes wrote in *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, we are confident in our knowledge that in the U.S. "the political capacities and revolutionary potential of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly."

For-profit health industry unprepared for '2nd wave'

Continued from front page

blame working people for not being careful, and their only response is to shut things down, leaving us isolated and out of work.

Rather than pooling resources to prioritize coming up with an effective vaccine, the pharmaceutical companies, are hell-bent to outdo their rivals in the race to come out on top to secure government contracts and the huge profits that follow in the marketing of their product.

Some gains have been made in treatments, but they come with a high price tag. Immediately after being diagnosed with COVID-19, President Donald Trump was given the best care developed to date, a three-drug cocktail of a Regeneron antibody treatment, antiviral remdesivir, and steroid dexamethasone. But these drugs must be mass produced and made available to all who fall ill.

Hefty price for COVID-19 drugs

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Oct. 22 approved Gilead Sciences' remdesivir drug to treat the coronavirus. It comes at a hefty price — \$3,120 for patients with private insurance. The company's stock jumped over 4%. The drug is still in short supply.

"Since the pandemic began, the Socialist Workers Party has pointed to the need to fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care," said Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. "And our party together with other workers will

continue to demand the most up-to-date care for all who fall ill."

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 rose to over 46,000 nationwide by the end of October, about a 50% increase since the start of the month.

Among those hardest hit are working people living in rural areas where many hospitals were closed before the pandemic, when their owners decided they weren't profitable enough. More than

120 shut down over the past 10 years.

U.S. authorities are fully aware that the 2020-21 flu season is beginning at the same time coronavirus is spiking. Last year was one of the worst flu seasons in decades — with up to 56 million cases and 62,000 deaths.

Lockdowns imposed by state and local governments last spring had a devastating long-term impact on the working

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A needed correction, worthy of study

This week's issue of the *Militant* features an article by Mary-Alice Waters, "Defending the Cuban Revolution, Strengthening U.S. Working People." Writing on behalf of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, Waters rejects the content and political line of an article that appeared in the print edition of last week's paper under the headline, "Would a Joe Biden White House Be Better for Cuba?"

Waters is a former editor of the *Militant* and a longtime member of the SWP National Committee whose leadership responsibilities include politically directing the party's work in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

The article "Would a Joe Biden White House Be Better for Cuba?" appeared under the byline of Miami *Militant* correspondent Steve Warshell, but responsibility for its line and content lies with the *Militant* editor. The editor retracted the article and pulled it from the online edition as soon as the SWP Nation-

al Committee pointed out that it was contrary to the longstanding positions of the *Militant* as well as those of the Socialist Workers Party. The print edition, however, had already been mailed to subscribers and distributors in the U.S.

The intent of the editor in the retracted article had been to explain that Washington's decadeslong course to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution, and to return the island and its people to exploitation by the U.S. imperialist ruling families, is supported by both capitalist parties. That effort will continue no matter who occupies the White House come Jan. 21, 2021. Our editing of the article not only failed to do that, however, but introduced the errors explained and rebutted by Waters.

The *Militant* editors wholeheartedly agree with "Defending the Cuban Revolution, Strengthening U.S. Working People." It's worth reading more than once. We urge our readers to study and discuss it.

Whoever's in White House, fight for jobs!

Continued from front page

people need to find the road to fight back against the bosses' relentless attacks on our jobs, wages, working conditions, health and safety.

We launched the SWP 2020 campaign in February as coronavirus was impacting countries around the world and governments in the U.S. and other capitalist nations were telling millions of working people to "stay at home," not to worry, "we got this." But the SWP campaign did the opposite. Malcolm and I have been to 22 states and over 90 small towns, rural areas and big cities. We got out on the streets with thousands of workers, marched in protests, walked strike picket lines and talked to countless workers as we campaigned in their neighborhoods.

We have seen firsthand how the pandemic is intertwined with the social and economic crisis of capitalism and how it bears down on our lives. But more importantly, the SWP presented a fighting course for working people and our unions — a road forward to build an independent, fighting working-class movement of millions to take political power into our own hands. Everything we are facing is created by the dog-eat-dog capitalist system organized for the handful of bankers and bosses to rake in profits off our backs.

We are seeing a second wave of infections and deaths, and how the rulers and their parties have done nothing to prepare for this. Health care in the U.S. is not health care — it is an industry to generate profits for the insurance companies, pharmaceutical monop-

olies, hospital and nursing home bosses. This shapes how all their decisions are made, with full backing from those in Washington and every state capital.

You hear people — especially the liberals and their media, who are in a frenzy — say this is the most important election in U.S. history. They castigate the SWP for running in fear we might take votes from Biden. But what the 2020 election shows is the crisis of the two-party shell game that began with the last election. Trump won in 2016 because millions of working people were disgusted with the "swamp" in Washington that has shown nothing but disdain for our growing crisis. He is trying to do the same again. But he has been in office for four years — are things better for working people?

Hillary Clinton called working people "deplorables," and the Democrats blame the working class for Trump's election. They firmly believe workers and farmers need to be controlled and prevented from effecting politics.

Biden poses as a man of the people, saying, "I'm the man from Scranton, and Trump is from Park Avenue." But many workers, especially African Americans, remember Biden's decadeslong record as a senator and Obama's vice president, where he was a staunch defender of capitalist rule.

A fighting working-class program

Whichever of the bosses' parties comes out on top, the class course forward raised by the SWP in our campaign for immediate action remain what workers need to fight for today.

The SWP says growing joblessness is the central issue in the U.S. We say workers and our unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program to create millions of jobs at union-scale pay building what working people need — housing, hospitals, schools, day care and much more. We call for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread work around and prevent layoffs, without lowering our income.

Workers need to be at work. It is there that we can join together to fight the daily attacks of the bosses. That is how we can build and strengthen our unions.

We say our unions need to fight for escalator clauses in every contract — and to cover everyone on Social Security, disability or a pension — so our wages and benefits go up every single time prices rise.

Out of these struggles we can build our own political party, a labor party, to bring the mighty weight of labor to all struggles against exploitation and oppression. And to lead the fight to take political power out of the hands of the exploiters and establish a workers and farmers government.

One of the most important legacies of the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement in Cuba was that they led Cuban workers and farmers to recognize themselves as actors, not objects. They are the changers of the world, not its victims, and can accomplish what others tell them is impossible. And that's what they did in Cuba and continue to defend.

We say to workers and farmers here — we are not victims, nor objects for others to manipulate. We are the makers of history and we can change the world.

'Charge Philly cops!'

Continued from front page

On a cellphone video taken on the spot, you can hear neighbors calling out, "He's mental, he's mental," trying to get the cops to back off. At the same time, you hear police yelling, "Shoot him, shoot him." Wallace is clearly seen several feet away from the cops when he was shot. Wallace, an African American, was a father of eight. His wife, Dominique Wallace, delivered their ninth child the day after he was killed. Wallace worked as an Uber Eats driver and as a rap artist who had written songs about Black rights protests and police brutality that neighbors played over loudspeakers after his death.

Despite calls to immediately release police body camera videos and 911 calls, Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney — prioritizing efforts to get a big turnout for Joe Biden over revealing the truth about the cop killing of Wallace — said they wouldn't be released until the day after the Nov. 3 vote.

'City needs to be held accountable'

"Everybody needs to be accountable for what they did. You did something wrong, you took a human life and have no remorse, that's dangerous," Wallace Sr. told a news conference Oct. 29. He called Kenney a "coward" for not apologizing on behalf of the city.

Protests against the killing began immediately and continued throughout the week. One march organized by the Black Clergy of Philadelphia ended with a community meeting at the Church of Christian Communion attended by the Wallace family, where the funeral will be held Nov. 7.

"I would like to see justice done for what they did to my son. I wouldn't wish this on no one's child, at all," Wallace's mother told the press. "I pray we all one day can come together and get along. Because this has got to stop. It's really got to stop."

At the Oct. 31 rally in Malcolm X Park, Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the Third District, spoke with some of the protesters. "The cops should be charged and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The police can't be 'reformed' in this capitalist society," he told St. Joseph University student Donovan Gomez, one of 20 students from the school who came.

Clara Costello and Amalia Jaimer Lukes, students at Bryn Mawr College, said they came despite being discouraged by the school administration. Costello told the *Militant* that college officials said they would have to quarantine for two weeks if they went to the protest.

There has also been anti-working-class rioting and looting, vandalism and arson across the city, especially in the Black community shopping area along 52nd Street in West Philadelphia. An estimated 1,000 people tore through Walmart, Target, Foot Locker and other stores in Port Richmond, on the opposite side of the city. Hundreds of Pennsylvania National Guard were ordered in by Gov. Tom Wolf and a 9 p.m. city-wide curfew was imposed by Kenney.

Wallace Sr. spoke out against the acts of violence. "It's uncalled for, you know what I mean?" he said. "And the people that's doing it, they're not helping me and my family. They're showing disrespect."

"Why would you want to have a demonstration where people are afraid to come?" nursing home worker Reafa Carter told the *Militant*. "We need the kind of rallies where everyone, and their families, are welcome."

At one Oct. 27 protest against Wallace's killing, a few young men who are Orthodox Jews came to join in solidarity. But instead of being welcomed, they were told, "This ain't your fight," and "Get the f--- out of here." They were shoved and chased away by some in the crowd, including members of the Black Hebrew Israelites, spewing anti-Semitic words of hatred.

The Stop Antisemitism watchdog group wrote, "Fighting racism with antisemitism is not fighting racism. It's just spreading more hatred."

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