‘Militant,’ book, SWP fund drive go over all goals!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Socialist Workers Party campaigners and members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. have just gone over the top in their full propaganda campaign to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the Militant and 1,300 books by revolutionary leaders, and to raise $135,000 for the SWP’s Party Building Fund! Congratulations to all involved.

Two frame-up victims exonerated.

BY NAOMI CRANE

CHICAGO — On Nov. 19 a jury in Kenosha, Wisconsin, unanimously found Kyle Rittenhouse not guilty on all charges in the killing of two men and wounding of a third while defending himself during riots in August 2020 after the police shot and partially paralyzed Jacob Blake Jr.

The verdict was immediately condemned by many liberals and middle-class leftists. Hundreds marched here, in New York, Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere, claiming the jury’s verdict was an outrageous act of “white supremacy.” They engaged in looting and rioting.

Even though he admitted he “didn’t watch the trial,” so he couldn’t possibly know the facts, President Joseph Biden said the verdict “will leave many Americans feeling angry and concerned, myself included.”

Jesse Jackson called for Biden to start a federal investigation to pursue further prosecution. But the jury’s verdict does fit the facts of the case. “Mr. President, if I could say anything,” said the verdict “will leave many Americans feeling angry and concerned, myself included.”

Jesse Jackson called for Biden to start a federal investigation to pursue further prosecution.

Back Warrior Met miners, Kellogg workers on strike!

BY EDWIN FRUIT

OMAHA, Neb. — With spirits high, workers on picket lines outside the Kellogg plant here Nov. 17 said they’re determined to win their strike against divisive two-tier wages.

The 480 workers here are striking along with over 1,000 other members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union at Kellogg’s cereal plants in Memphis, Tennessee; Battle Creek, Michigan; and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The main issue is “equal pay for equal work,” Dan Osborn, president of BCTGM Local 50G, told the Militant. New hires, who the company calls “transitory,” are paid less and get fewer benefits. Kellogg’s wants to create more “transitory” workers.

Two frame-up victims exonerated. So who really killed Malcolm X?

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Two of the three men convicted for the assassination of Malcolm X in 1965 were exonerated Nov. 18. The decision reverses a decades-long frame-up by the capitalist “justice” system.

The convictions of Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam were overturned by New York State Supreme Court Judge Ellen Biben following a nearly two-year investigation by the Innocence Project and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. The third person convicted — Talmadge Hay- er — admitted his guilt but always maintained Aziz and Islam weren’t involved. They had been convicted anyway. All three were members of the Black Muslims.

Protests in Sudan continue as toilers reject deal keeping military in gov’t

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of Sudan’s armed forces, restored Abdalla Hamdok as prime minister Nov. 21, after ousting him in a military coup Oct. 25. Despite Hamdok’s reinstatement tens of thousands of people joined rallies in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere to demand the complete removal of the military from the government.

The Forces for Freedom and Change, a coalition that nominated Hamdok as prime minister two years ago, rejected the new setup. There should be “no negotiation, no partnership, no legitimacy,” according to a statement released by the movement.

Spirits high as Kellogg’s strike over two-tier wages continues

BY OMARI MUSA

WASHINGTON — “No contract, no coal” chanted some 150 United Mine Workers of America members and their supporters at a rally here Nov. 18 in support of striking miners locked in a bitter strike battle against Warrior Met mine bosses in Brookwood, Alabama. The action took place outside Fidelity Investo...

Mass vaccination drive in Cuba shows power of socialist revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

With over 80% of the island’s population fully vaccinated as of Nov. 20, Cuba is on course to reach 90% before the end of the year. This striking progress is based on highly effective vaccines developed and produced in Cuba. This is despite stepped-up sanctions that are part of Washington’s more than 60-year embargo on the island.

Back Warrior Met miners, Kellogg workers on strike!

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The Militant is the newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party. It is published weekly by NM Knights of Labor Foundation.
Iran farmers protest, demand gov’t end deadly water shortage

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tens of thousands of farmers and other working people filled the dried riverbed and banks of the Zayanderud River in Isfahan, in central Iran, Nov. 19, culminating over a week of protests demanding the government take steps to relieve a more than two-decade-long water shortage.

Protesters chanted, “Farmers! Farmers! We support you!” “Plundered for 20 years, the water must return,” and “Give Isfahan a chance to breathe.” One sign read, “Our children want water to provide food for your children.” Photos published in official government media showed banners reading, “Our water is being held hostage.” Isfahan, some 250 miles south of Tehran, is Iran’s third largest city, with 2 million people.

The dried up river has become a symbol of the inability and lack of will of the bourgeois clerical regime to meet the most basic needs of working people. Scarcity of water is a result of authorities diverting water to the bourgeois clerical regime to meet its needs, and the costs of the Iranian rulers’ counterrevolutionary interventions in the region affect their ability to grapple with things like the water crisis.

Water-intensive crops grown by large capitalist farmers, like rice, receive government favor over less profitable crops. They organized themselves and their families to maintain the encampments jamming highways into the capital, New Delhi, beginning after the government announced the new laws last month. They organized themselves and their families to maintain the encampments, enduring police attacks, summary executions for daring to agitate until the laws are taken back in parliament,” Rakesh Tikait, a prominent protest leader from Bhartiya Kisan [Farmers] Union, told Asian News International.

Protest by thousands of farmers and other working people in dry bed of Zayanderud River in central Iran Nov. 19, demanding government take steps to address worsening water shortages.

India farmers win! After year of protest, gov’t backs down

BY ROY LANDERSEN

A year of massive protests by working farmers in India has forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce Nov. 19 he had decided to withdraw laws that threaten their livelihoods. The measures would have removed state-guaranteed minimums for staple grain prices, allowing big capitalist traders to force down the prices they pay to farmers. If implemented, farmers say, the laws would lead to rising indebtedness and drive many of them off the land.

“This is a win for all those farmers who laid down their lives to save hundreds of thousands of poor farmers of this country from corporate greed,” Jagdeep Singh told the New York Times. His father, Nakshatra Singh, 54, was among those killed in Uttar Pradesh last month when a deadly clash occurred between protesters and government officials. Hundreds of thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh launched huge protests and set up encampments jamming highways into the capital, New Delhi, beginning after the government announced the new laws last month. They organized themselves and their families to maintain the encampments, enduring police attacks, summary executions for daring to agitate until the laws are taken back in parliament,” Rakesh Tikait, a prominent protest leader from Bhartiya Kisan [Farmers] Union, told Asian News International.

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Support fight for justice for Ahmaud Arbery

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Continued from front page and other labor battles.

Workers who got subscriptions and books were involved in reading more about the SWP’s program, which explains why workers need to build our own labor party, from the Democratic Party to the National Labor Relations Act to the National Farm Workers Association. The SWP’s program is crucial in fighting the bosses’ interests. That is part of opening the road for workers and farmers in their millions to organize to take political power into their own hands.

Health workers get ‘Militant,’ book

On Nov. 18, SWP members Betsy Stone and Eric Simpson joined picket lines outside the Kaiser hospital in Oakland, during a one-day strike by members of Service Employees International Union—United Healthcare Workers West. The action was taken in support of 700 stationary engineers on strike at 24 Kaiser hospitals in northern California. These engineers fix plumbing, heating and other hospital equipment.

Pamela Watson Mapp and John Fontenberry are among the more than two dozen hospital workers in northern Califor- nia who have subscribed to the Militant over the last two months. When Stone called attention to the paper’s coverage of what working people have accomplished in the US and in Cuba who de- pend on the Militant’s coverage that explains the facts presented in the trial story Rittenhouse was not guilty.

“Workers staked in defending the right to due process and to be con- sidered innocent until proven guilty by any reasonable doubt. Such rights are crucial in defending workers from bosses’ attempts to use courts to frame us up. He got a copy of the paper.

A worker for the New York City Housing Authority said, “If Rittenhouse was Black, he would have been found guilty or might even have been shot dead by the police at that right.” She said defending the right of Rittenhouse to due process strengthens the fight of all workers, including those who are Black, for their rights.

We noted that the thugs, rioting and burning down of businesses in Kenosha, after the police shooting of Jacob Blake Jr. last year undermined the right to due process. And in Chicago, the order is an attack limiting what pickets can do.”

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Continued from front page

program, which ex - press the importance of the union and the company Nov. 22. The union knows of only five who crossed the picket lines, he said. He estimates the company is working at 20% of capacity. “They are using temporary workers.” The union plans to keep its picket lines open as long as necessary.

He agreed with that. He said he subscribed to the Militant and bought Malcolm X. Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Farrell Dobbs and SWP National Secretary David Hilliard.

The union proposes that “after four years pneumonia ward workers would reach the top levels,” he said.

It can take as much as eight years now to get to be a regular worker,” said Jeff Jens. “I am a second generation Kellogg’s worker and I want it to be a place where my kids can work if they choose.”

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“Strikers picket four hours a day, three days a week, although many come to the lines more often. Some have gotten tem- porary jobs until the strike is over.

The company “cut off medical ben- efits on the first day of the strike,” Os- born said. It also “got a restraining order limiting what pickets can do.”

Douglas County District Court Judge Timothy Burns issued the order Nov. 10, hours after the company filed a lawsuit against the union. The order is an attack on strikers’ freedom of speech and as- sembly. It prevents them from trying to stop vehicles and talk to scabs going into the plant, Osborn said.

Workers are sticking together”

“This is my first union job and my first strike,” said Lorianne Tartaglione, who has worked for 16 years as a machine operator at the plant. But I have learned about the importance of the union and sticking together. I will go back into the plant with my head held high.”

Katy LeRougetel shows Militant, books by revolutionaries to Sif Eddine Bouchareb, a transit system mechanic originally from Algeria, in Repentigny, Quebec, Oct. 23. Eddine Bouchareb bought a Militant subscription and Cuba and the Coming American Revolution in French.

Continued from front page

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Continued from front page

profitable divisions among workers, de- manding the end of a 30% cap on the number of transitory workers they can hire, said Osborn. She said they “eventually the whole workforce would be at the lower level of pay and benefits. We want parity for new workers while they want to bust the union.”

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So who killed Malcolm X?

Continued from front page

The Militant December 6, 2021

Malcolm X meets reporters in New York, Nov. 24, 1964, after his second trip to Africa. Malcolm said the trip showed him the need to involve all “true revolutionaries dedicated to overthrowing the system of exploitation that exists on this earth,” like in the African and Cuban revolutions.

Malcolm X: A revolutionary leader

The political course he was on during the final year of his life was as a revolutionary internationalist, a proponent of working people breaking from bourgeois nationalism of the Nation of Islam. "We have obtained dozens and dozens of reports from the FBI and the NYPD's Bureau of Special Services and Investigations," District Attorney Cyrus Vance told the media Nov. 18. “These records include FBI reports of witnesses who failed to identify Mr. Islam and who were not interviewed otherwise.

“... And significantly, we now have reports revealing that, on orders from Director J. Edgar Hoover himself, the FBI followed multiple witnesses to not testify against Mr. Islam or any of his associates. And they were, in fact, FBI informants," he said. “Many of those documents were excruciating. None of them were disclosed to the defense."

In addition to FBI agents being present in the Audubon Ballroom when Malcolm X was assassinated Feb. 21, 1965, unconfirmed Gene Roberts, who had infiltrated Malcolm's bodyguards, was there. Roberts was assigned by the Bureau of Special Services, the NYPD's Red Squad, to infiltrate and inform on the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which Malcolm founded in 1964. According to highly censored documents released by the FBI in the 1970s, Hoover wrote to the FBI office in New York in 1964 instructing it to “do something about Malcolm X.”

During the 1960s and early '70s, Hoover confessed that he had participated in killing Malcolm. He also testified that neither Islam, then known as Thomas X Johnson, nor Aziz, known as Norman Butler, were involved. Close associates of Malcolm on the scene at the Audubon Ballroom that day said neither Johnson nor Aziz were there.

Hayer was imprisoned for 45 years, including during the 1971 Attica uprising in upstate New York, where he repeated to attorney William Kunstler that that Aziz and Islam were innocent. In 1977 Hayer filed affidavits with the New York court naming four different mosques in his city, his mosque in Newark, New Jersey, as his associates in the assassination. The government refused to reopen the case or grant Aziz and Islam a new trial.

For years Malcolm had been a prominent spokesperson and leader of the Nation. "But by the early 1960s he was bombing up against the limitations of the Liberation Nationalist ideology of the Nation of Islam," SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes writes in Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power. "And contrary, was being politically drawn more and more toward the rising struggles for Black freedom in the United States and revolutionary battles by the oppressed and exploited the world over."

Malcolm X: A revolutionary leader

Malcolm X: A revolutionary leader of the working class

Believe is an excerpt from a talk by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, titled “Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class.” It was given at a 21, 1987, meeting in Atlanta, and is available in Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power. Copyright 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

I want to make the case that Malcolm X was a revolutionary leader of the working class in the United States. ... [T]he social and political transformation that will be fought by a popular revolution in the United States — a revolution that will be led by the vanguard of the working class, or else go down to defeat. The only way to the desire for oppressed and exploited the world over. Among among other things, the conquest of power by the working class and its allies, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat — the necessary step that can open the road for Blacks, and for all supporters of Black rights, to successfu fight to end racist oppression of once and for all.

In the leadership of revolutionary working-class struggles in this country, workers who are Black will occupy a vanguard place and weigh enough to compara to their numbers in the U.S. population. That’s what all modern history teaches us. That fact is testified to by the record of successful working-class political struggles in the United States: from battles during the closing years of the Civil War itself; to Radical Re construction and the efforts to prevent the imposition of peonage among the freed slaves; to the struggles that built farmers movements and the industrial unions; to the student and mass proletarian movement that topped Jim Crow segregation, fueled the rise of greater political self-confidence and nationalistic consciousness among Blacks in the 1960s, and inspired what became the mass movement against the Vietnam War.

Malcolm X was a legitimate political hero to all these struggles. The importance of his assassination, some who looked to Malcolm were disappointed because the political organization he founded and led, the OAU, died with him. Given the enemies they faced, none of the relatively few OAU cadres Malcolm had brought out of the Nation of Islam were able to step forward to carry on the fight and shoulder the leadership to continue Malcolm's revolutionary political course. That’s a fact.

But the heirs of Malcolm X will come forward — all over the world, including right here in the United States — as revolutionary struggles advance, as the oppressed and oppressed organize to resist the devastating consequences of capitalist crises and imperi alist domination and wars. More leaders like Malcolm will come forward, including in the labor movement. And they will need to know who Malcolm was, what Malcolm stood for, what he fought for and dedicated his life to.

Malcolm correctly insisted that the struggle for Black freedom in the United States is part of an international struggle, a struggle for human rights not just civil rights. He refused to look at America through American eyes, or to look at the world through American eyes. He took his stand from within the oppressed and exploited in the battle for liberation the world over. That was his starting point. And that's the beginning of wisdom for any revolutionary today.

There is no doubt that the oppression could relied on some common humanity shared with the oppressors, or with a ‘well-meaning’ humanity, to their own worth.”

Malcolm X detested demagogy and thuggery, methods he had personally seen in the Nation of Islam. "We have obtained dozens and dozens of reports from the FBI and the NYPD's Bureau of Special Services and Investigations," District Attorney Cyrus Vance told the media Nov. 18. “These records include FBI reports of witnesses who failed to identify Mr. Islam and who were not interviewed otherwise.

“The use of power by the working class and its allies to by the record of powerful social and political struggles in the United States: to the extension of the two-party system (with its oc case of humanity. ..."

That’s why Malcolm was an intransigent opponent of the Democratic and bourgeois liberal parties, an opponent of the two-party system (with its occa sional third-party eruptions to blow off steam) that has tied working people to capitalist politics since well before the rise of U.S. imperialism at the close of the nineteenth century.

Arbery verdict: Guilty

As we go to press, the jury in the trial of three men accused of killing Ahmaud Arbery, an African American jogger, near Brunswick, Georgia, returned its verdict Nov. 24. Travis McMichael was found guilty on all nine counts, including malice murder. Gregory McMichael and William Bryant Jr. were found guilty on some but not all charges. Arbery’s parents praised the verdict. Full coverage in the next issue.
ON THE PICKET LINE

Pittsburgh medical workers rally for wage raise, union

PITTSBURGH — Hundreds of workers rallied Nov. 18 at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center headquarters here demanding a $20-an-hour starting wage, better benefits, forgiveness of medical debt and union representation. The action, organized by SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, was organized as part of a one-day walkout.

“It is shameful that my co-workers and I have been pushed into medical debt while working for the largest medical provider in the state,” Nila Payton, a UPMC employee told the crowd. “Can you imagine receiving collection calls from your employer while on the clock?”

“I left at 4 a.m., joined the strike, and have been part of actions all day,” Quincy, a patient care technician in the gastrointestinal surgical unit at UPMC Montefiore, who requested that his last name not be told, said this Militant worker-correspondent. Instead of hiring the workers needed, “they just hire casuals,” and then they only work every once two weeks.

“Staffing ratios are absurd,” said Tom Smith, who has worked two years at the emergency unit at UPMC Mercy Mercy. “Fifteen to 20 assignments for one worker in the ER. We have to deal with people in the middle of nowhere, is half way, is nothing.”

Cimone Clain, who works in the diet and food nutrition department, said there are jobs that need to be filled “and people would apply for them but UPMC won’t open them up.”

— Tony Lane

UK steel scaffolder strikers escalate fight, solidarity is key

SCUNTHORPE, England — Sixty scaffolders on strike at the giant British Steel site here since Oct. 4 are escalating their fight for pay parity and employment security after having been instructed to “advance” their strike. At an “informational action” at the nearby Keaby power station Nov. 4, strikers were joined by union representatives at the plant. They have also appealed for support to workers at the Drax and Ferrybridge power stations in Yorkshire, the nearby Stallingborough power station, Vivergo refinery in Hull, and the ConocoPhillips oil terminal on Teesside. “This is to show we are not alone, it’s a fight for all,” said Birchall.

“We are inspired by the Unite members’ strength and solidarity throughout the continuous strike action and they have our total support and admiration,” read a message to the strikers sent by Clayton Clive, union branch secretary for Manchester South Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

Union members delivered the message to the strikers on their picket line along with a 300 pound donation to the strike fund Nov. 15. Strikers posted a “Big Thanks” on their Facebook site.

— Pete Clifford

HOURS BEFORE EXECUTION, JULIUS JONES SENTENCE COMMUTED

BY JANET POST

Supporters of Oklahoma death row prisoner Julius Darius Jones cheered as Governor Kevin Stitt commuted Jones’ execution just four hours before it was due at the state prison in McAlester Nov. 18. Stitt commuted Jones’ death sentence to life without the possibility of parole.

On Nov. 1 the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board voted to recommend clemency and a life sentence with the possibility of parole.

Support for a new trial for Jones has been won from celebrities Kim Kardashian West and John Legend as well as former Oklahoma Governor David Boren. Baker Mayfield and Dak Prescott, and NBA players Stephen Curry, Blake Griffin and Russell Westbrook.

“Today is a fair trial and bring all the evidence,” said Dallas Cowboys quarterback Prescott after Jones’ sentence was commuted.

“I still believe that every day Ju- lius speaks behind bars is an injustice and I will never stop speaking out for him or fighting to free him,” Made- line Davis-Jones, his mother, said in a statement.

Davis-Jones joined some 300 demon- strators outside the governor’s office Nov. 17 after Stitt declined to meet with her. Some 1,800 students at 13 Oklahoma City high schools walked out of their classes to protest the planned execution the same day. Dozens of students protested at the University of Oklahoma the previous week.

Jones, a 41-year-old African Ameri- can, was sentenced to death in 2002 after being convicted of killing business- man John Howell during a carjacking three years earlier in the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond. He has always maintained his innocence.

The state of Oklahoma ended a six- year moratorium on executions last month. After being lethally injected John Marion Grant repeatedly con- vulsed and vomited Oct. 28. It took 15 minutes for Grant to be declared unconscious.

Like the rest of the criminal “justice” system, the death penalty is a weapon used to terrorize and intimidate working people and enforce the domination of the ruling capitalist class.

Support grows for new trial

Jones’ trial was a travesty of jus- tice. His parents both say he was at home with the family at the time How- ell was shot, but their testimony was never brought to the jury during the trial. The gun used to kill Howell was not tested at the time of the crime for DNA. When Jones’ defense attorneys went to the location of the crime, they presented no witnesses. Since then he has obtained new lawyers.

Howell’s sister, Megan Tobey, an eyewitness to the killing, could not see the face of the shooter, which was cov- ered with a stocking cap, but she iden- tified Jones as the killer.

Connie Ellison, Howell’s girlfriend, spoke in support of Jones at the recent parole board hearing. “Even though I know I would lose my treasured friendship with... the Howell family, I had to speak my truth today,” she said. “There are too many questions and too much doubt about Julius’ guilt to allow the state of Oklahoma to execute him.”

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus $2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162762 Atlanta, GA 30321-7262

Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: www.pathfinderpress.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

December 9, 1996

PITTSBURGH — Nearly 1,000 high school students marched and rallied here to protest the not guilty verdict ac- quitting John Wayne Bobbitt, a police man who had been on trial in the killing of Jonny Gammage in October 1995.

Members of the NAACP Youth Congress called for “Mobilization of Af- rican Students for Justice” called the walkout. School officials decided they would not try to block students from attending. The march was marshalled and led by the NAACP, and other community organi- zations, although the students organized and ran the march and rally.

Mayor Tom Murphy has agreed to send a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno asking her to investigate the death of Gammage. Leaders of the NAACP want Reno to investigate whether Gammage’s civil rights were violated when he was killed by police after a traffic stop.

December 10, 1971

Indian Foreign Minister Jagjivan Ram, speaking to a Calcutta rally of 50,000 on Nov. 28, said Indian govern- ment had been instructed to “advance” as many miles into Pakistani territory as the range of the Pakistani guns.”

The escalation of the war of words followed the most intense week of fighting to date along the India East Bengal border.

The offensive that began Nov. 21 seems to have been initiated by the Pakistanis. The Indian government has indicated its determination to defend Bangladesh against any attack.

The Nov. 28 New York Times carried an article which pointed to the main issue underlying all the saber rattling between India and Pakistan: the fight for self-determination of Bangladesh. The article writes that “a real war be- tween the Bangladesh and Indian national liberation forces of Bangladesh and India is being fought in East Pakistan, and how that conflict will develop none can predict.”

December 7, 1946

The forcible assault of Big Busi- ness and its government against the striking coal miners is far more than a strikebreaking attempt against one union. This battle between the 400,000 soft coal miners and the capitalist government marks a new and more crucial stage in the social strugg- gle between American capitalism and organized labor.

Behind the attempt to crush the United Mine Workers is the determi- nation of Wall Street to launch aggres- sive offensive that will deal all organized labor a smashing and decisive blow.

This is a key point in a gigantic social struggle. That struggle must be settled in the interests of the entire working class. The whole titanic pow- er of America’s 15,000,000 union men and women must be mobilized and hurled into action for the conquest of social demands that go far beyond the issue of limited hourly wage increases.

5
Black rights fighter Homer Plessy wins a pardon after 129 years

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

On Nov. 12, the Louisiana Board of Pardons recommended a pardon for Homer Plessy, 129 years after he was arrested for challenging Louisiana’s new Separate Car Act by boarding a “whites only” rail car on June 7, 1892. Four years later the Supreme Court denied his appeal, ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson that “separate but equal” did not violate the 14th Amendment’s equal protection under the law.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards says he will sign Plessy’s pardon.

The ruling against Plessy provided legal cover for Jim Crow laws. They were enforced with brutal lynching mob violence throughout the South until they were torn down by the mass Black-led working-class movement for civil rights in the 1950s and ’60s.

Plessy was a dedicated combatant in the fight against Jim Crow. He knew his train ride would be short. He was a Creole man of Haitian-French descent, a shoemaker and a member of Comite des Citoyens. The group organized resistance against steps by the segregationist government in Louisiana — backed by extra-legal Klan-style violence — to crush gains won in the years after the Civil War that ended slavery under government of Radical Reconstruction.

Plessy’s action was organized by the group, as was the train conductor’s challenge of Plessy being in a “white” car, setting the stage for the court fight. Plessy was born in New Orleans on March 17, 1863. Because of Radical Reconstruction he could ride integrated streetscars and integrated schools and look forward to voting and marrying whom he wanted. After the war Blacks, backed by the power of the Union Army, provided leadership in the South to freed slaves and to exploited farmers and workers who were Caucasian. They waged struggles for land, defended the right to vote arms-in-hand and defeated attempts to impose slavery-like contract gangs in the fields.

Mississippi and South Carolina’s majority Black legislatures passed laws advancing the interests of all working people. They barred racial discrimination, established the first free public schools, public hospitals and medical care for the poor and expanded the grounds on which a woman could obtain a divorce.

On a train in New Orleans in 1892, Plessy boarded an integrated train. He, a shoemaker, charged and tried before Judge Ferguson. Tourgee, Plessy’s lawyer, told the court “separate but equal” had nothing to do with equality. “Its only effect,” he said, “is to perpetuate the stigma of color.”

Ferguson said that because intra-state travel was protected by federal law, he had to uphold the Separate Car Act. But he allowed Plessy and his supporters to appeal the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

By 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, where Supreme Court legalized Jim Crow segregation.

Continued from front page

Miners rally, fight ban on picketing

Phoebe Ferguson and Keith Plessy, descendants of Louisiana judge and Black rights fighter involved in 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, where Supreme Court legalized Jim Crow segregation.

By 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, where Supreme Court legalized Jim Crow segregation.

The court’s 7-1 decision against Plessy was a decisive step in giving legal cover to the bloody imposition of Jim Crow.

It would be 60 years before another generation of Blacks, building on the fight led by Plessy, would lead the discipline and determined mass working-class struggle that uprooted Jim Crow, transforming social relations and winning the support of workers here and around the world in the process.

Homer Plessy is part of the long line of working-class combatants who have made history on behalf of all those exploited and oppressed by capital.
Capitlism contaminates land, sea and air for profit

Below are excerpts from the Socialist Workers Party 2007 resolution: "The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor." It is available in issue no. 14 of New International, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

Labor’s transformation of nature is the source of all wealth, all advances in social productivity, culture, and conservation. It is the very foundation for the reproduction of all species. At the same time, from the earliest stages of class-divided society, the properized classes have organized labor to advance their private gain. They have done so with no concern for the social consequences of their methods. The exploiters use labor as an expendable beast of burden, while they simultaneously deplete the soil, destroy forests through slash-and-burn or other farming methods, wipe out animal life through overhunting and overfishing, and poison streams, ponds, and other bodies of water. Thus, over the thousands of years since the rise of private property, the relationship between social labor and the natural environment has been marked by the mutually contradictory poles of transformation and destruction.

The capitalist mode of production dominant for the last few hundred years, however, takes on its own particular lawful historical forms and tempos, with ruinous consequences for the producers of wealth themselves. Under capitalism neither nature, tools, nor machinery; neither science, knowledge, nor technique add to the value created by work.

Capitlism contaminates land, sea and air for profit. Workers control over production key to defense of land and labor

Workers control over production key to defense of land and labor 

BY TERRY EVANS

Set up as a platform for over 190 heads of state — and thousands of corporate CEOs, nongovernment organizations and other hangers on — the United Nations climate change summit was no more successful than any of its 25 earlier gatherings in addressing the growing greenhouse gas emissions. It ground down to an end in Glasgow, Scotland, Nov. 13, issuing a high-sounding but largely toothless statement.

Capitalist powers represented there offered no road to reduce poisoning of the land, sea and air, nor to resolve the crisis facing all of humanity. They continued the charade of making progress by adopting rules for the profit they want, but not the progress the working class wants by adopting rules for the profit they want, but not the progress the working class wants. Capitalists pretend to care about the needs of working people worldwide. But there is no “we.” The capitalist rulers and their governments main preoccupation is in extending their interests and economic sphere, not in preventing the exploitation against their rivals.

The conference declaration contains no proposals to harness the available scientific capacity available today to meet the needs of working people worldwide. Taking on this challenge has to be shouldered by the working class, the only people who go without electrical power for heating, lighting, cooking, education and culture. The conference declaration contains no proposals to harness the available scientific capacity available today to meet the needs of working people worldwide. Taking on this challenge has to be shouldered by the working class, the only people who go without electrical power for heating, lighting, cooking, education and culture.

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Workers control over production key to defense of land and labor

Capitalist rulers class controls production, and is responsible for degradation of environment and unsafe working conditions. Above, coal miners 1969 march in Charleston, West Virginia, as they fought for control over mine conditions and black lung benefits during hard-fought strike.

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Continued from front page

For the working class what’s key is to harness this nuclear technology in order to meet needs for energy worldwide. That is why 750 million people — living in semicolonial countries, toil and live without electrical power. Many political figures and radical environmental activists focus on the verge of a catastrophe. They insist the peoples of the semicolonial world should be prevented from acquiring electrical power. They warn of “renovational” energy sources, which cannot provide for the power needed.

But nuclear power is a cleaner energy source than burning fossil fuels. The construction, mining, transportation, decommissioning and disposal of waste in nuclear power plants involves emitting far less pollution that mining coal, oil or natural gas.

The Chernobyl disaster was a result of the contempt of the ruling bureaucrats in Moscow toward working people. At the same time, by proceeding with the construction of a reactor without a secure containment structure to the delay in evacuating people, they acted with utter disregard for human life.

Even including the disaster at Chernobyl, decades of injuries and deaths from mining coal far outpace those in the operation of nuclear power plants.

The key question is: Who controls energy production? Like every other industry under capitalist rule, it’s run to profit, not to meet human needs. The capitalist bosses and bankers, and their governments, toss all consideration of life and nature aside in their fight for the wealth working people produce.

The working class is the only social force capable of taking advantage of labor’s scientific and technological improvements for the benefit of all. From coal mines to auto plants, it is workers who fight to control all aspects of production and decisions about what is produced, instead of being passive to preventing injuries and death.

Our unions must be mobilized to break from the bosses’ parties — the Democratic and Republican — and lead a fight to take political power into our own hands and open the road to protecting the earth’s resources for future generations.

Hamdok’s return reinstates a transitional power-sharing arrangement between the military and capitalist parties reached in 2019 after weeks of street battles and strikes led to the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. Hundreds of thousands of working people joined those actions to demand an end to rising hardship, greater political rights and to oust al-Bashir, who devastated the country and orchestrated a civil war in Darfur in which tens of thousands were killed.

The forces for Freedom and Change say that now they will no longer be part of Hamdok’s government. Many demonstrators chanted, “Hamdok has sold to the revolution.”

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which had called many of the actions that led to al-Bashir’s ousting, and Hamdok’s decision to accept reappointment was “treacherous.”

Since the Oct. 25 coup, at least 41 people protesting military rule have been killed by security forces. Hamdok’s announcement includes a promise to release detainees — hunters — who accuses a power of expansion that permits it to augment the elements of its accumulation beyond the limits apparently fixed by its own magnitude. In fact, capital is forced to extend its reach over nature and labor by the cutthroat competition of the system itself and by the workers’ fierce resistance bred by this exploitation.

In just a few hundred years, capitalism — initially germinated in a few places of Europe — has employed that “power of expansion,” reinforced by military might, not only to engulf the vast majority of the earth but to contaminate its lands, seas, and atmosphere and to extend finance capital’s armed dominion into space.

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The Militant   December 6, 2021

SWP leads fight against FBI attacks on the working class

BY LARRY SEIGLE

The secret police apparatus as we know it today began to take shape at the end of the 1930s, on the eve of the war. This is when our case begins.

Roosevelt was replacing the New Deal with the War Deal, as the imperative of imperialist war reshaped the political scene at home. Their aims were to silence all opponents of the war drive, to channel all motion and legal battle against U.S. political police into a war on workers.

All struggles for improvements in wages and working conditions, or for an end to racism, economic segregation, and illegal methods throughout the Midwest leadership was spreading class-struggle democracy, among the most democratic of the political police under a bourgeois state.

This does not depend on the form of the capitalist state or the type of regime.

We have here this massive uncovering mechanism, fight to uncover it and get it out of the state apparatus. It is a bourgeois democracy, among the most democratic of capitalist regimes anywhere in the world. Yet we have here this massive uncovering mechanism, an army of agents provocateurs, frame-ups, disruption efforts, and all the other things that are not incidental to capitalist rule. They are not secondary, not optional. They are permanent, basic, and essential.

This undergraduate, repressive mechanism is part of the real content of the capitalist police state.

We often say in popular explanations that the FBI uses police-state methods. This is true, of course. But the FBI is part of the police apparatus. It is a secret police apparatus. It is a bourgeois democracy, among the most democratic of capitalist regimes anywhere in the world.

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This undergraduate, repressive mechanism is part of the real content of the capitalist police state.
**EDITORIAL**

**Defend political rights workers need**

Under capitalist rule, the bosses use their courts, cops and control of state power to advance and defend their interests. They exploit and generate the labor of working people at home and abroad.

Bossses got compliant judges to issue restraining orders attacking strikers by miners at Warrior Met Coal in April, and by Black farmers in Nebraska. The rulings hamstring these unions’ ability to picket effectively, a crucial weapon in the fight to improve wages and working conditions. Getting out the card and vote, building a proud solidarity from low workers and the labor movement is sorely needed to strengthen the workers in the face of these attacks.

As workers organize to defend ourselves, every right we've won through centuries of hard-fought struggle is precious.

As capitalist rule in the U.S. emerged out of two great social revolutions — the revolutionary war to overthrow colonial subjugation by the British crown and the Civil War that eradicated chattel slavery a century later. Through these mighty class battles, rights were won that are written into the Constitution, including the word and winning widespread solidarity from feltin Alabama and Kellogg's bakery workers in Omaha, instigated by Washington that it would pay a huge ransom.

The facts presented in the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse clearly showed he was not guilty of murder in the kill- ing of two men in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and that he acted in self-defense. The jury voted unanimously after lengthy deliberation. But it did not stop liberals, from the president on down, and middle-class radicals after lengthy deliberation. But it did not stop liberals, from the president on down, and middle-class radicals from disregarding the evidence, vilifying Rittenhouse as a “white supremacist,” denouncing the verdict as a “white-nationalist win” destroying unions in work- ing-class neighborhoods. They targeted on rights working people and our unions need.

Defending our fundamental political rights, is criti- cal for the working class and our struggles — today and in bigger battles to come.

**Verdict upholds political rights workers need**

**Continued from front page**

one thing to you,” Rittenhouse responded Nov. 22. “I would urge you to go back and watch the trial and un- derstand what happened. Much of this was so unjust that it sounds like a made-up story.

For those who claim Rittenhouse is a “white su- pr-emacist” and murderer, the facts don’t matter. And neither do political rights, like the presumption of inno- cence and the constitutional right to due process, that the working class and our unions need.

In the interview, Rittenhouse said, “I’m not a rac- ist person, I support the BLM [Black Lives Matter] movement,” he proudly noted. And he is a supporter of Black Lives Matter supporters, and others, many carrying weap- ons. Rittenhouse, then 17 and working in Kenosha, where his father lives, volunteered to come out that night to help with first aid and to defend a local car lot.

“If they did this to me, imagine what they could have done to a person of color who doesn’t maybe have the resources I do or is not so publicly known. I am not a person of color.”

The shootings took place Aug. 25, 2020, on the third night after the police shot Blake Jr. The previous two days saw large protests, followed by night-time rioting and arson and beatings of police by a layer of Black Lives Matter supporters, and others, many carrying weap- ons. Rittenhouse, then 17 and working in Kenosha, where his father lives, volunteered to come out that night to help with first aid and to defend a local car lot from damage. He carried an AK-15-style rifle.

**What came out of the trial**

Video and testimony at the trial, much of it com- ing from people and the other objects of himself, supported Rit- tenhouse’s contention that he was under attack and only fired his weapon in self-defense. He shot Joseph Rosenbaum after Rosenbaum had more than once fired his weapon in self-defense. He shot Joseph Rosenbaum after Rosenbaum had more than once fired his weapon in self-defense. He shot Joseph Rosenbaum after Rosenbaum had more than once fired his weapon in self-defense. He shot Joseph Rosenbaum after Rosenbaum had more than once fired his weapon in self-defense.

The defense had to prove. This is standard policy entrapment, frame-ups and victimization.

The judge also said the defense could refer to those shot as “arsonists,” “rioters,” and “looters” — if evi- dence was presented backing up those descriptions. Wined and dined, and carried the ruling that the prosecution could refer to Rittenhouse as a “cold-blooded killer” — if evidence was presented to justify that. None was.

The fact is, there is little to knock Schroeder for, which is the best you hope for in a capitalist “ jus- tice” system that’s stacked against the working class.

Russell, former NFL quarterback Colin Kaep- permick tweeted, “We just witnessed a system built ing them more suitable for rural areas and large parts of the world. Cuba has already sent mil- lions of vaccine doses to Venezuela, Nicaragua and Vietnam. With Cuba’s aid, the Iranian government is producing the vaccine there.

Working people’s increased confidence

Young people joined in making millions of daily vis- its to Black people’s homes to help the movement to make everyone who needed medical treatment got it. Many joined volunteer agricultural brigades to alleviate food shortages exacerbated by the embargo. They were deeply impacted by the experience.

Alejandro López Rodriguez, a student at Ha- vana’s CUBAE technology university, volunteered in the fields, in health centers and door to door. “It was a fantastic adventure, which has allowed me to learn about everything and grow as a human being,” he told the campus media.

On Nov. 21, the first Cuban plane since June landed in Bogotá, Colombia, bringing more than 300 doctors to the two countries. Argentina is historically a major source of tourism to Cuba. That same day, thousands across the island took part in a day of volunteer labor, preparing fields for planting and building homes.

In spite of the failed April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. That’s also why threatened Nov. 15 disruptions against the revolution instigated by Washington flirted.

Vaccines produced in Cuba are proud of what they have accomplished over the last year. At the same time, they’re aware that the worldwide capital- ist economic crisis and the tightening of the U.S. em- bargo guarantee the need for ever more essential goods and other challenges will remain.

"There is a lot to do in Cuba, a lot to transform to overcome the challenges of so many external limita- tions and those that our brothers, like Venezuela and other countries are facing in the Nov. 21 Gramma.

"But we have good rea- son to celebrate one more victory against the most powerful empire in history."