

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Ukraine unions fight Moscow's invasion, boss attacks at home
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 38 OCTOBER 16, 2023

Colonial rule and capitalist plunder are behind Libya flood catastrophe

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The deaths of thousands in Libya after the collapse of two dams uphill from the coastal city of Derna Sept. 11 was a social disaster rooted in colonial oppression and capitalist greed.

It resulted not because of "climate change," as many liberals say, but from the drive for profits by competing foreign capitalist powers and local forces vying for control over Libya's vast oil resources. They cast aside any thought about the basic infrastructure that's essential to protect the lives of the country's toiling masses.

Libya has a bloody colonial history, even the country's name was imposed by conquerors from Italy in the early 20th century. Under Rome's fascist regime in the 1930s, 100,000 Libyans were placed in concentration camps where roughly half perished. After the defeat of Italian forces in the second im-

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100,000 Quebec public workers fight gov't attack

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — Tens of thousands of public workers — 100,000 according to organizers — demonstrated in Montreal Sept. 23 to back up their demands and win support as negotiations with the Quebec government got underway.

The majority were health and education workers from across the province. Eleven planes were chartered to bring delegations from farther away regions of Quebec. Others traveled up to 20 hours to take part.

The demonstration was very festive, noisy and combative, all at the same time. It was the biggest union action here in many years.

The protest was called by four union federations, grouped together in a Common Front — the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), the Quebec Federation of Workers (FTQ), the Federation of Quebec unions (CSQ) and the Alliance of Professional and Technical Personnel in health and social services (APTS). Arrayed against them is Prime

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Stand with UAW strikers! A fight for the working class



Militant/Josefina Otero

United Auto Workers members and supporters on picket line in Roanoke, Texas, Oct. 2. Autoworkers are fighting against two tiers, family-busting schedules and unlivable wages.

UAW, BCTGM strikers back each other up in Tennessee

BY AMY HUSK

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The nearly 200 members of United Auto Workers Local 2406 at the General Motors ACDelco Parts Distribution Center here walked off the job Sept. 22, joining thousands of other autoworkers on strike against the Big Three. Local President Jeffrey Thomas told the press they will strike until their demands are met.

"We will just stand here one day longer, one day stronger," he said. "The timeline is however long it takes."

Local 2406 shop chairman Sherman Ward told the *Militant* Sept. 27, "This strike is past time. Our biggest issues are cost of living, pensions, two tiers. About two-thirds of workers here are on the

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25,000 autoworkers out on strike at Ford, GM, Stellantis

BY DAN FEIN

AND NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — "We're glad to join the strike," Courtney O'Barski, a member of United Auto Workers Lo-

BRING LABOR'S POWER TO BEAR IN UAW STRIKE
— editorial page 9

cal 551, picketing Ford's assembly plant here Sept. 30, told the *Militant*. "Inflation is killing us. Retirees need health insurance coverage."

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SWP campaigners get a hearing at union struggles, workers' doors



Militant/Brian Williams

Seth Galinsky, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Council, shows *Militant* to participants at the Brooklyn Book Festival Oct. 1. The table was always crowded as SWP supporters sold 28 *Militant* subscriptions and 81 books by party leaders, other revolutionaries.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

"By joining union struggles and going door to door in working-class communities, Socialist Workers Party campaigners in Georgia have sold 21 *Militant* subscriptions and 18 books by revolutionary leaders since the fall campaign began," Susan LaMont, organizer of the SWP in Atlanta, told the *Militant* Oct. 2.

The table party members set up at the Atlanta Labor Day picnic "was the scene of nonstop discussions throughout the day," she said. Participants picked up six *Militant* subscriptions and seven books.

In the past two weeks, party members made two visits to the Stellantis picket line in nearby Morrow to bring solidarity and learn more about the strike. UAW members there have bought five *Militant* subscriptions and three copies of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

"We also have sold four *Militant* subscriptions and one copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to*

Continued on page 3

In blow to political rights, judge rules Trump guilty while denying him a trial

BY TERRY EVANS

Defense of constitutional protections remains at the center of the class struggle, as the Democrats and their allies in the liberal media pursue a relentless drive to ruin Donald Trump and his family. They're determined to prevent him from running for president in 2024 by any means possible, and they consider their assault on free speech just collateral damage.

In a brazen example, New York State Supreme Court Judge Arthur Engoron ruled the former president and his two sons were guilty of fraud Sept. 26, denying them the right to a trial and tossing aside their right to present evidence in their defense.

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Ontario school board 'cancels' 1,000s of books

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — In a blatant act of censorship to impose "woke" standards and "cancel culture," the Peel District School Board, just west of Toronto, had thousands of books removed from its 257 school libraries, especially targeting anything published before 2008.

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Inside

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Calif. Amazon truck drivers fight for safe conditions, higher pay

UK refuse workers strike for equal pay for agency workers

Aboriginal rights fight continues, vote 'No' on 'Voice' referendum

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Working people here will vote in a referendum Oct. 14 on whether to change the Constitution to “recognize” the original inhabitants of the country by creating an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander “Voice” to act as an advisory body to the Australian Parliament.

Since his election in May 2022, Labor Party Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pushed this measure, ostensibly as a way to deal with over 200 years of oppression of Aboriginal people. Its goal is to improve the image of the Australian rulers, at a time when they are seeking to play a more decisive role in the Pacific-Asia region.

He has drawn on support from top trade union officials, prominent Aboriginal figures, major sporting organizations and big business. Qantas, Rio Tinto, BHP and Wesfarmers are among major Australian capitalist corporations that have given public support and millions of dollars to the Yes campaign.

Albanese called the vote “a once-in-a-generation chance to bring our country together and to change it for the better.” But as the economic crisis deepens across Australia, many workers are wary of this campaign that is being led by the bosses and their government. A debate has widened on the issue, including among Aboriginal leaders.

At a Militant Labour Forum held here Sept. 30, Robert Aiken, a leader of the Communist League, said, “We call for a No vote in the referendum.” He said, “Establishing a ‘Voice’ to advise Parliament will only serve to derail the struggle for Aboriginal rights. It counterposes reliance on such insti-

tutions to independent working-class political action.”

Aiken explained what is needed is not a referendum, but a union-led fight for jobs, housing and health care to address the economic and social crises that bear down hardest on Aboriginal people. “The fight for the liberation of Australia’s indigenous people is an essential part of the working-class road to power.”

Proposal is a diversion

The request for the “Voice” came out of a government-initiated meeting of Aboriginal leaders in 2017. It called for “the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.”

The proposed body would only advise the government on Aboriginal affairs, without having any decision-making powers. Its composition would be decided after the referendum.

The Yes campaign claims to stand on the successful 1967 referendum, when a decadelong campaign by Aboriginal people won a change to the Constitution to recognize all Aborigines as equal citizens.

Unlike the bipartisan support for the 1967 change, the Labor proposal has sparked a sharp debate in bourgeois politics. Peter Dutton, leader of the opposition Liberals, has called for a No vote. He says the debate around the referendum is dividing Australia.

Marcia Langton, an Aboriginal academic who is one of the architects of the proposal, sparked an uproar Sept. 12 by saying the arguments of the No campaign were “base racism” or “sheer stupidity.” The race-baiting tone of some of the middle-class Yes campaigners portrays working people



AAP/Richard Wainwright

Nationwide protests against Aboriginal deaths in custody included April 2021 march in Perth, Western Australia, above. Next national day of action for Aboriginal rights is set for Oct. 7.

as backward and the source of racism.

Two Aboriginal leaders, Jacinta Price, a Country Liberal Party senator from the Northern Territory, and businessman Warren Mundine, have been the most prominent spokespeople for the No vote.

Mundine claims that the Voice will be just another bureaucratic structure that further entrenches government in Aboriginal lives. “Aboriginal people are the most over-governed people in Australia. We need less government, not more,” he said.

Addressing the National Press Club, Price told reporters, “If we keep telling Aboriginal people that they are victims, we are ... giving them the expectation somebody else is responsible for their lives.”

Aboriginal families face far higher unemployment, as well as crisis conditions in housing, health care and education. Conditions are even worse in remote communities. Indigenous youth face disproportionately high rates of arrest and imprisonment.

Life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders remains up to 14 years lower than for other Australians. Babies born to Aboriginal mothers die at twice the rate of others. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also face substantially higher rates of heart and kidney disease, as well as diabetes.

Spurred by victorious civil rights battles in the U.S. in the 1960s, an Aborigi-

nal-led movement won wide support for land rights, against segregation in townships and racism in hiring.

A broadening fight in the 1980s against Aboriginal deaths in the hands of the police and prisons was demobilized by the establishment of a special government investigation, a Royal Commission on Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. After years of court hearings and taking evidence, its recommendations were mostly ignored. Today indigenous people are six times more likely to die in prison than other Australians.

At a Sept. 24 meeting here, titled “Yes or No, what is next?” a panel of Aboriginal activists spoke about why they were not endorsing the Yes campaign. The event publicized a national day of action Oct. 7 to protest Black deaths in custody.



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THE MILITANT

Back right to self-determination for oppressed nations

Turkish-backed Azerbaijani forces seized the overwhelmingly ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan Sept. 19, leading tens of thousands to flee. The 'Militant' defends the right of oppressed nations to self-determination.



Tens of thousands of Nagorno-Karabakh refugees flee on road to Armenia Sept. 27.

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

Militant Labor Forum: ‘Strikes today show workers are fed up’

BY BETSY FARLEY

CINCINNATI — “The strikes today show more and more workers are fed up,” Gary Ringo, a bakery worker and member of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 57, told the Militant Labor Forum here Sept. 25. The forum featured a panel of trade union officials and members promoting solidarity with the autoworkers strike and other labor battles taking place today.

Ringo described his efforts along with co-workers to build support for the strike by BCTGM Local 390G members at International Flavors and Fragrances in Memphis, Tennessee.

“We spread the word about their fight, collected donations and brought them to the strikers on the picket line in Memphis,” Ringo said. “The working class is constantly under attack by the bosses and owners — they try to pit us against each other in so many ways. We have to stand up together if we want to gain.” BCTGM members in Cincinnati raised \$500 to take to the strike.

Earl Farris, BCTGM Local 57 business agent, who was part of the solidarity visit to the strike, also spoke. “Those folks are united,” Farris said. “They were prepared for this fight. They built solidarity among their membership well before the contract expired, and that’s what we need everywhere.”

BCTGM members have also brought solidarity to striking autoworkers. Ringo joined the United Auto Workers picket line at GM’s Cincinnati Parts Distribution Center in West Chester on the first day of their walkout.

“The biggest way they divide us is with the unequal pay. That’s why we’re fighting to end the tiers,” UAW Local 674 President Janet Billingsley, who is currently on strike at the distribution center, told the forum, attended by 18 people. “The strike is a training ground for the new workers.” She described how over the past decades workers have been forced to move from plant to plant because of layoffs and shutdowns by the Big Three.

Kimberly Gray, an alternate UAW Local 674 shop steward, said new workers start at \$17 an hour. “The

company takes advantage of the 90-day probation and runs them from one end of the plant to the other. They don’t care if you get hurt. I tell the new young workers, ‘Don’t let them make you do \$94 worth of work for \$17!’” Gray said. “That’s why we have the union.”

“Solidarity is not just a kind, warm gesture. It’s the key ingredient for working people to be able to fight and win,” said Kaitlin Estill, another member of BCTGM Local 57 who took part in the solidarity trip to Memphis. Estill is also the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Cincinnati City Council.



Sept. 25 Militant Labor Forum in Cincinnati builds labor solidarity. Speaking is striker Janet Billingsley, UAW Local 674 president. From left, Kaitlin Estill, SWP candidate for Cincinnati City Council and BCTGM Local 57 member; Earl Farris, BCTGM Local 57 business agent; Kimberly Gray, UAW Local 674 alternate steward; and Gary Ringo, BCTGM Local 57 member.

SWP gets a hearing at union struggles, workers’ doors

Continued from front page

Workers Power from discussions during door-to-door visits. One worker contributed \$5 to the SWP Party-Building Fund,” LaMont wrote.

On Sept. 29, three SWP campaigners were welcomed by strikers at the UAW picket line at ZF Chassis Systems in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where over 100 workers went on strike Sept. 10.

After looking at the Oct. 9 *Militant*, one striker read to everyone from a front-page article. He quoted Laura Garza, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, saying, “When the working class starts to stand up, as they’re doing today, everything changes. More workers start to think, ‘What can I do?’”

“These experiences point to the possibilities in today’s world to win broader support and new members to the Socialist Workers Party,” LaMont said.

The eight-week international campaign by the SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. to expand circulation of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries runs through Nov. 21. Goals are 1,350 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 1,350 books. The campaign includes the SWP’s annual Party-Building Fund, with a goal of raising \$140,000.

The experiences in Atlanta are matched by the receptivity to the *Militant* and books in other areas.

“You’ve got to fight to the end,” delivery driver Jepu Tinalin told Com-

munist League member Debra Jacobs when she knocked on his door in South Ockendon, east of London, Oct. 1. Tinalin was expressing his enthusiasm for the unionization fight by workers at Amazon warehouses in the Midlands. “Employing workers on agency contracts is very divisive. Worker unity is key. There are many immigrant workers on agency contracts,” he said. Tinalin was one of four in the area to

pick up a *Militant* subscription.

Nearly 1,000 people attended the conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Jacksonville, Florida, Sept. 20-24. At the Pathfinder Press booth staffed by SWP campaigners, participants bought 111 books and 10 *Militant* subscriptions.

To campaign or make a contribution to the SWP Party-Building Fund, contact party branches listed on page 8.

Drop frame-up charges on Uhuru 3!

BY RACHELE FRUIT

TAMPA, Fla. — Forty people packed the U.S. Middle District federal courtroom here Sept. 28 to support African People’s Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela, African People’s Solidarity Committee Chairwoman Penny Hess and Uhuru Solidarity Movement Chair Jesse Nevel as their lawyers argued for the court to dismiss the frame-up charges against them.

Known as the Uhuru 3, they were charged as unregistered “agents of a foreign government” by President Joseph Biden’s Justice Department. Their indictment came nine months after armed FBI raids on seven Uhuru Movement homes and offices in St. Petersburg, Florida, and St. Louis, July 29, 2022. Similar charges have been used for decades to target militant workers, Black rights fighters, the Socialist Workers Party and others.

“It’s a victory that they granted oral arguments,” Hess told the *Militant*. All too often, courts simply deny motions like this.

“This case is about pure political speech and the right to advocate dissenting views. The overt acts charged in the indictment all relate to political speech and peaceable assembly,” Uhuru 3 attorney Leonard Goodman argued in their motion. “Every one of these charged offenses are protected political speech under the First Amendment.”

“The government here is using a federal criminal statute to prosecute members of an activist group for political speech and activism in opposition to U.S. foreign policy,” Goodman said.

“This is an assault on the idea that Black people have agency, that we have brains,” Yeshitela said to supporters and to the press following the hearing. “This case is not about whether or not I have a position around the war in Ukraine that was the same as what the Russians had. This attack was perpetrated against us

because we have fought for the liberation of Africa for over 50 years.”

If the case isn’t thrown out by the court, the case is set for trial next February, Goodman said after the hearing.

“The government is trying to put people in jail for publishing articles in their own newspaper,” he said. “The Motion to Dismiss is important because people should not have to face a criminal trial for expressing their views, even if they are harsh critics of the government.”

Joining those demanding that the charges against the Uhuru 3 be dropped were Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, and Laura Anderson, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress. Afterward they described the landmark lawsuit the Socialist Workers Party won against the FBI, which exposed decades of the government’s use of informers, burglaries, wiretaps, provocateurs and dirty tricks against the party. “In ruling in our favor,” Fruit said, “Judge Thomas Griesa said that after 50 years of harassment, the government found not one illegal act by our party. He ruled the SWP’s call for a socialist revolution is protected by the Constitution.”

“We call for dropping the charges against Trump as well. All of the cases against him are aimed at criminalizing his views and trying to prevent him from running or taking office if elected. We defend constitutional freedoms for everyone, not just those we agree with. The working class, and all those fighting for justice, need them.”

For more information on the defense, contact info@handsoffuhuru.org or call (813) 906-9274.

Correction

In *Militant* issue no. 37, the article “All out to back UAW strike! Bring labor’s power to bear!” misidentified United Auto Workers striker Shannon Hickie-White. She is a woman.

SWP candidates speak at Ohio high school

CINCINNATI — The Socialist Workers Party campaign and its program were well-received at the candidate fair held here at Walnut Hills High School Sept. 13. Ned Measel and Kaitlin Estill, SWP candidates for Cincinnati City Council, and some of their supporters discussed with students the only realistic road forward is for working people to take political power into their own hands.

Students also looked over the wide range of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries and the *Militant* newspaper the candidates brought.

“We aren’t just Socialist Workers Party candidates in Cincinnati. This is a campaign for the working class in the United States,” said Kaitlin Estill. “Communists across the country are using our campaigns to increase our political work and lend support to strikes and other fights by working people, no matter how big or small.”

Estill described the recent solidarity trip she and her co-workers organized to support the fight being waged by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 390G in Memphis. They collected 41 signatures in their BCTGM-organized shop on a solidarity card, raised \$500 to contribute and took them down to Memphis to deliver in person.

“We take the Socialist Workers Party’s program to strike picket lines and to workers door to door here and in the countryside,” Measel told the students.

— JACQUIE HENDERSON

Quebec public workers protest

Continued from front page
Minister Francois Legault and the Quebec government.

Two other federations are negotiating separately, the Interprofessional Health Federation of Quebec (FIQ) and the Autonomous Education Federation (FAE). Some 565,500 workers are involved in total.

Wages, hours, workloads and respect were the key issues highlighted at the demonstration.

“People are shocked about the 9% over five years offer. The members of Parliament give themselves \$30,000!” social work technician Guylaine Charbonneau told the *Militant*. While the Quebec National Assembly deputies voted themselves a hefty salary boost last spring, workers would get less than 2% a year in the face of a much higher inflation rate.

The Common Front is demanding a three-year contract, with a \$100 per week increase for the first year, or the rate of inflation plus 2% — whichever is higher. Then the inflation rate plus 3% the second year and the inflation rate plus 4% the third.

Luc Michaudville, a health service attendant at a seniors’ residence in St-Hyacinthe, southeast of Montreal, described the conditions he and his co-workers face. “I earn \$25.63 an hour after 17 years, the same salary as those starting out today,” he said. “After COVID, the government abolished a bonus we got of \$1,000 per month.

“At the same time, the health system ‘reform’ that the government plans to implement is aimed at forcing workers to work without respect for seniority,” he said. “To those who stay for a double shift of 16 hours, they offer to put you up in a hotel. If you have children, they say, ask grandparents to take care of them.

“Single-parent co-workers receive disciplinary notices because they take time to be with their child. This is very harsh — a small delay and right away

you get a disciplinary notice.”

When the *Militant* asked him what it would take to win the fight, Michaudville said, “It is the support of the population that can make the difference.”

All the Common Front unions are holding strike votes, with approval ratings so far running over 90%.

The FIQ held a demonstration of 500 union members in downtown Montreal Sept. 6, and another Sept. 25 in front of the constituency offices of Prime Minister Legault.

The FAE announced Sept. 28 that its members had voted to authorize an unlimited general strike if negotiations don’t produce a satisfactory contract.

The government has made it clear negotiations will be tough. The morning of the Common Front demonstration, Sonia LeBel, president of the Treasury Board, declared, “We absolutely must organize work in our schools and hospitals in a more efficient way.” How? “By convincing the unions to give us more flexibility in collective agreements.”

The first time Common Front negotiations took place was in 1972, bringing together the CSN, the FTQ and the Quebec Teachers Federation, which is now the CSQ. The combined workforce of 200,000 demanded a minimum wage of \$100 per week. When they refused to obey a law ordering them to end their strike — then the biggest strike action of Canada’s history — the government threw the leaders of the three federations in jail. A spontaneous general strike broke out across the province, with workers taking control in several towns. They won their \$100 a week.

Katy LeRougetel contributed to this article.

Hundreds of chemical workers strike in Illinois



Militant/Ikona Gersh

BRADLEY, Ill. — More than 700 members of International Chemical Workers Union Council Local 498C went on strike here against CSL Behring Sept. 27.

The multinational company produces medication for those with immune deficiencies and bleeding disorders, such as hemophilia. It reported a \$2.24 billion net profit for 2022.

The union says defending jobs is a key issue. “Over the past two to three years the company has subcontracted out our work in the sanitation department and in part of the facilities maintenance department,” John Austin, president of the local, told the *Militant*. “Now it wants the right to lay off union members after they hire contract workers to replace them at lower pay. This strike isn’t about money. It is about job security.”

After rejecting the company’s contract proposal, workers voted 652-1 to authorize a strike Sept. 24. The union organized mass picketing of several hundred workers from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on the first three days of their walkout.

“We’ve had several unions stop by the picket line,” said Austin, “including Teamsters, electrical and sheet metal workers and pipefitters.”

Some strikers explained that the work schedules, which are organized on a seven-day rotation, wreak havoc with their family life. “I work 12-hour shifts because of overtime. I spend more time at the company than with my family,” Pat Cox said. “We’re required to work overtime if enough of us don’t volunteer.”

Workers say they’re inspired by the strike by the United Auto Workers. “We’re not the only ones standing up for our rights. There are a lot of other workers who are putting up a fight too,” said striker Gus Pournaras.

— ILONA GERSH

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

The Working-Class Road to Ending the Dictatorship of Capital. Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Fri., Oct. 13. Potluck supper, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$10. Community Center, 13909 E. 14th St. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

NEW YORK CITY

Maurice Bishop and the Grenada Revolution, 40 Years Later: An Example and Lessons for Workers Everywhere.

Speakers: Terry Marryshow, Maurice Bishop October 19 Martyrs Foundation, Grenada-Cuba Friendship Association; Steve Clark, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, editor, *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-1983*. Sun., Oct. 29. Reception, 3 p.m.; program, 4 p.m. Donation: \$10. Sponsored by Militant Labor Forum in New York and in Northern New Jersey. 307 West 36th St., 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK CITY

Stand with Cuba! March and Rally. Sat. Oct. 28, 12 p.m. at Times Square. End the U.S. blockade against Cuba! Take Cuba off Washington’s list of state-sponsors of terrorism! End all U.S. travel sanctions! For more information: U.S.-CubaNormalization.org.

‘Woke’ Ontario school board cancels 1,000s of books

Continued from front page

They were acting in response to a directive from the Ontario Minister of Education to implement an “equity-based book-weeding process.” The books removed include *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank and the entire Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling.

Many of the books were dumped in landfills to ensure that they cannot be used by anyone else, the school board stated, because they are “inherently racist, classist, heteronormative and/or sexist” and therefore “perpetuate harm and oppression.” This includes many books that are considered classics, since they “typically consist of Euro-centric texts” that reinforce “colonial ideologies” and are “not inclusive, culturally responsive, relevant or accurate.”

“No society that destroys books has ever ended up on the right side of history!” warned Libraries not Landfills, a group of parent, grandparents and other community members formed to fight the book banning.

A photo of half-empty bookshelves taken at the start of the new school year by outraged grade 10 student Reina Takata has been widely reproduced in news articles on the purge. Takata estimates that more than 50% of her school’s library books are gone.

“Authors who wrote about Japanese internment camps are going to be erased and the entire events that went on historically for Japanese Canadians are going to be removed,” said Takata, who is of Japanese de-

scendent. “That worries me a lot.”

In the wake of public outrage, Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce told the *Toronto Sun* that the Peel School Board had misinterpreted the ministry directive and that it is “offensive” to remove books from years past “that educate students on Canada’s history, antisemitism or celebrated literary classics.” He instructed them to put a hold on the culling.

Toronto board cancels Shakespeare

But this is not the first time a school district has implemented the liberal “cancel culture” line of the Ministry of Education. In February the Toronto District School Board voted 18-3 to cancel the Grade 11 English course, which focuses on Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and other classics. It replaced the course with one centered on the works of Canadian Indigenous writers. Other Ontario school boards have taken similar action.

Puncturing school board claims that the measures “are responsive to student interest and engagement,” student Daniel Manandhar wrote an opinion piece in the *National Post* protesting the change. Education about Indigenous history and concerns “is important, but this new curriculum will diminish students’ education in English classics,” he said. “It is precisely because the classics hold substance that they sometimes offend: they stand for something.”

In 2019 the Providence Catholic School Board in southwestern On-

tario removed more than 4,700 books from 30 school libraries, saying they had “outdated content and carried negative stereotypes about First Nations, Métis and Inuit people” or reflected “cultural appropriation.” Thirty books were burned in a “flame purification” ritual and the ashes of “racism, discrimination and stereotypes” used as fertilizer to plant a tree. The event was called, “Giving Back to Mother Earth.”

Similar campaigns are underway in the U.S. and elsewhere.

“Schools and universities have become seedbeds of censorship where young people are supposed to be guaranteed ‘safe spaces’ and ‘protected’ from words, ideas, facts or artistic works deemed by the wise to be literally ‘hurtful’ or ‘offensive’ to the youth,” noted Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. in *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History*, published by Pathfinder Press. “Students are being taught that great works of art, literature, and scientific conquests of past generations, from which we learn and which we transform as we build on today, are at best irrelevant, if not products of ‘white supremacy,’ ‘toxic masculinity,’ ‘transphobia,’ and ‘misogyny.’”

Instead, what is needed is to be “challenged to expand historical and cultural horizons,” she says, “to always be ‘broadening your scope,’ as Malcolm X urged workers and youth.”

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Calif. Amazon truck drivers fight for safe conditions, higher pay

TORRANCE, Calif. — “Amazon hides behind its subcontractors, tries to duck responsibility for providing safe working conditions and decent pay,” Jessie Moreno told the *Militant*. He was part of a picket of 40 organized by Teamsters Local 396 outside Amazon’s delivery facility DCX7 here Sept. 29. The spirited pickets stopped departing Amazon delivery vans at three exits for up to five minutes each, talking to the drivers and providing them with information about their struggle. They got a friendly response from a number of the Amazon van drivers.

Moreno was one of 84 Amazon drivers and dispatchers who voted to join Teamsters Local 396 last April while working for Battle-Tested Strategies, an Amazon delivery subcontractor, in a fight for higher pay and safer working conditions.

“The vehicles weren’t maintained and it was 130 degrees in the back on the vans during the summer,” he said. Moreno told the press Amazon expected drivers to deliver up to 300 packages in eight hours.

This was the first union organization of Amazon drivers in the country. Battle-Tested Strategies soon agreed to recognize the union, which demanded a pay raise from \$19.75 to \$30 an hour.

Amazon retaliated by terminating its agreement with the company. The day the contract would have ended, June 24, the Teamsters went on strike and filed complaints with the National Labor Relations Board.

Amazon tries to deny responsibility, alleging that the drivers and dispatchers were employees of another company.

“Over the past few months, we’ve often picketed six days a week and have gone to over 20 different Amazon facilities, not just in California but also in other states,” Moreno explained.

“They expect us to make 20 to 30 stops in an hour,” said Geime Guzman, a striking driver on the picket line. “Most of the packages in the vans are out of sequence and you have to hunt around for them. And you are not given the same route every day, some-

times there are no street signs, and no street lights after darkness. And, parking is a nightmare.” She said they usually worked up to 10 hours a day.

Several other members of Local 396, including Cesar Castro, a shop steward at the UPS facility in Compton, joined the action. “We’re here to show strength. Safety for these drivers is a real issue,” he said. “They get vans with bad tires and lack of reflective lights. We’re accomplishing something here today, with solidarity for the striking drivers. And the drivers of the vans we stopped learned what we are fighting for. The company felt our presence.”

— Norton Sandler

Alabama UAW workers strike Mercedes parts supplier

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Over 100 workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 2083, went on strike Sept. 20 against ZF Chassis Systems here. The workers make axles for German automaker Mercedes-Benz, which has a nearby assembly plant.

“We voted down the company’s proposal four times,” shop steward Kenneth McKay told *Militant* worker-correspondents who visited the picket tents Sept. 29. “They offered a 50 cents an hour raise each year. But with raising our payments for health insurance, it worked out to be a four-cent raise!”

“That was a slap in the face,” added Demetrius Williams, who has 24 years in the plant. He said another issue was eliminating the tiers, “so everyone doing the same work would be paid the same.”

McKay said, “The median pay for production workers at similar facilities is \$23 an hour. Starting pay for new hires here is only \$15.50, with a top wage rate of \$18.60. And tier-one workers top out at only \$20.30 an hour.”

Workers explained they have been working 12-hour shifts, six days a week. “We spend more time working here than with our families,” Williams said.

The Mercedes axle plant is one of the few unionized car parts manufacturers in the region. Workers there won union recognition in 2001.

Members of the United Mine Workers have come to the picket line to express



Militant/Bill Arth

Picket line at Kaiser Permanente hospital in Los Angeles Oct. 4. A coalition of unions representing over 75,000 health care workers at Kaiser facilities nationwide are on a three-day strike for a new contract, fighting to end short staffing that cripples patient care and workers’ lives.

solidarity. “We just wanted to come out and support these guys the best we could,” Larry Spencer, UMW District 20 vice president, told the media Sept. 27. “They’re going through some stuff that we went through the last few years and we’re still trying to get a contract with Warrior Met.” The UMW went through a hard-fought 23-month strike before returning to work last spring to continue their fight for a contract with the coal mine operator.

Students from the University of Alabama have also come to stand with the UAW workers. The company is trying to run production with nonunion workers.

Messages of solidarity and contributions can be sent to UAW Local 2083, P.O. Box 70264, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

— Janice Lynn

Minnesota unionists rally to back striking screen actors

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Around 75 union members and supporters rallied here Sept. 30 in solidarity with striking Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, joined by members of Writers Guild of America, who are discussing a proposed contract.

“I am here to support those who support us. This has been a humbling experience and it’s my responsibility to be out here,” Alex Tivis, a member

of United Auto Workers Local 125 on strike against Stellantis in Plymouth, told the *Militant*.

The rally was organized by the Twin Cities local of SAG-AFTRA and by International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 13. Members of the UAW, Teamsters, Minnesota Federation of Teachers, and the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers unions joined the action in chanting, “Fair wage not minimum wage!” and singing union songs led by striking actors.

— Helen Meyers

UK refuse workers strike for equal pay for agency workers

LONDON — Over 200 refuse workers and street cleaners who work for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets voted to return to work Sept. 27. The members of the Unite union had struck Sept. 18 for higher pay.

The settlement includes a one-time payment of 750 pounds (\$915) to each worker. All 50 agency workers will be offered employment directly with the Council in December, according to the union.

Days before the strike ended, Terry Pate, the union branch secretary, told the *Militant*, “The company is refusing to extend the offer they’ve made to the workers on council contracts to the agency workers.

“This is a working-class struggle against divide and conquer,” he said. At the picket line, some 70 strikers had blocked the road into the plant in Poplar, east London, to prevent the movement of vehicles into and out of the site.

Ibrahim Kwaonte has worked at the plant for 16 years. “During that time, we’ve been employed by different contract companies — Cleanaway, Onyx, Veolia — and now the council,” he said. “Whichever employer, we have to rely on our union.”

A group of the strikers joined a protest of health workers called by Unite and the British Medical Association outside the Royal London Hospital Sept. 20. They extended solidarity to junior doctors and ancillary staff striking over wages and conditions.

— Jonathan Silberman

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 19, 1998

Beating the drums of American nationalism, the U.S. steel bosses have launched a reactionary campaign against steel imports. This campaign is a deadly trap for working people, designed to save steel bosses’ profits, while pitting working people internationally against each other.

In the 1980s, under the banner of an anti-imports campaign, the steel companies slashed hundreds of thousands of jobs and implemented some of the steepest concessions upon the Steelworkers union. We have no common interests with the employers. It’s their companies, their profits, and their government.

Unions need to extend solidarity to working people on the front lines of standing up to the bosses’ attacks. This includes the steelworkers on strike against Kaiser Aluminum plants, Titan Tire in Iowa and Mississippi, and Magnetic Specialties Inc. in Marietta, Ohio.



October 19, 1973

Last month immigrant workers in France took a major step forward in fighting back against mounting racist attacks. For the first time, immigrant workers called a general strike in Marseille, which spread to numerous cities, involving tens of thousands of Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian and other immigrant workers.

The Mouvement des Travailleurs Arabes, which called the strike, appealed for support from all antiracists. The significance of the strike was discussed by a leader of the MTA in an interview in the Sept. 21 *Rouge*.

“In Marseille, Paris, and Toulouse we have just now waged a battle for the right to strike, for the right to be fully recognized as workers. That will enable the immigrant workers to look at themselves in a totally different light. It has created a relationship of forces so there can be unity with the French workers.”



October 18, 1948

Socialist Workers Party’s standard bearers in this election occupy top place on the revolutionary scroll of honor.

Farrell Dobbs covered the strike-bound waterfront in San Francisco. He spoke over a loudspeaker system to hundreds of striking longshoremen and seamen telling them that the SWP supported their struggle against the ship-owners “unequivocally and without reservations and qualifications.”

The New York campaign workers marched in and took over the Grand Central station in a welcome reception for [Grace] Carlson. She was greeted by Farrell Dobbs, who arrived early that morning by plane. He presented Grace with a bouquet of red dahlias. Hundreds of onlookers had gathered around, and Grace and Farrell spoke briefly of the reception our socialist platform had met from coast to coast. The reception concluded with the singing of Solidarity.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

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25,000 autoworkers on strike across the country

Continued from front page

The day before, the union expanded the strike to this plant and General Motors' Lansing Delta Township Assembly plant in Michigan. This brings the total to 25,000 workers on strike against the Big Three at 43 warehouses, factories and distribution centers in 21 states.

Among the union demands aimed at reversing earlier concessions are cost-of-living adjustments that automatically raise wages with inflation, a 46% wage increase, an end to the two-tier system that pays new hires half the pay of long-time workers, and a return to "defined benefit" pensions that promise a set monthly retirement.

The strike began Sept. 15 at one assembly plant each of Ford, GM and Stellantis. A week later, the union called out workers at 38 parts distribution centers.

The strike is being followed by workers around the country. Bosses are watching too. BMW Group spokesperson Nathalie Bauters told the *Herald-Journal* that the company — which has a large nonunion factory in Spartanburg, South Carolina — is "closely" following the strike.

"I can hardly support my family," Ford worker Tiara Banks told the *Militant*. "I have a 4-year-old and a 14-year-old. We are fighting for 32 hours for 40 hours pay. That would give us more time with our kids. Starting pay is now \$16.67 per hour. That's just a little over minimum wage."

A 32-hour workweek with 40 hours pay is aimed at preventing job losses caused by the government and bosses' push for electric vehicles, which take fewer workers to produce.

Strikers are winning solidarity from other workers and unions. Striker Teefarah Curry said Oct. 1 that "most cars passing our picket line honk to show support. People have dropped off food and drinks."

UAW President Shawn Fain said from the start that the union's strategy was to not strike all Big Three plants at once, then step up the pressure on the auto bosses over time. Many workers are hoping to be the next ones called out.

"Me, I would have put everybody out," Chenelle Hoilfield, a strike captain at a Stellantis Parts Distribution Center in Warren, Michigan, told the *Detroit Free Press*. "That would have made a bigger impact." She added, "I'm pretty sure there's a method" to the union strategy.

Militant worker-correspondents visited picket lines at two GM parts distribution centers near Flint, Michigan, Oct. 2. "They make the temps work seven days a week nonstop," said striker Connie Stratton. "Permanent workers put in a lot of overtime too, but you aren't forced to work more than two Saturdays in a row."

"We want our pension back," said Jennifer White from GM Customer Care and Aftersales, who has 17 years seniority. Workers hired since 2006, she said, only get a 401(k), whose value depends on the vagaries of the stock and bond markets.

Lisa Jackson and two of her co-workers from Saginaw Metal Castings, members of UAW Local 668, joined the picket line at Flint Processing Center in Swartz Creek. "We're not on strike, but we came today to do our part in supporting the strike," said Jackson.

Also joining the picket was Valerie Edwards, a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers at a casino in Detroit. She told strikers that 3,500 workers at three Detroit casinos have voted to strike if their demands are not won by Oct. 16.

'We want everything we gave up over the past 16 years'

WINCHESTER, Va. — Spirits were high here at UAW Local 946's picket line outside Mopar auto parts, a division of Stellantis, Sept. 26. Up to 14 trailer loads of parts are shipped weekly to 224 dealers. Since the strike began it's down to two, strikers say.

"We want everything we gave up over the past 16 years," said Greg Thorson, 63. "Stellantis made \$12 billion in the first six months of this year. They can afford it."

"One of the main reasons we are out here is to get rid of the two tiers," Thorson said. "Everybody should get the same wages for the same work."

"The difference in wages creates animosity and divisions in the workplace," added Joseph Hartely, 37. "Some people make \$17 an hour, some make \$23 and some make \$31. We are not just striking for ourselves. It helps the working class. If we can get a raise, so can everyone else."

Tina Potter is a "temporary" worker, with only four months at Mopar. "Before working here, I worked at Amazon down the street. They paid \$4 an hour more but they don't treat the workers



Wooden solidarity "card" from unionists at Ford Parts Distribution Center to striking UAW Local 868 members at Stellantis in Morrow, Georgia, "means a lot," strikers told the *Militant*.

right," she said. "Here, the union defends the temps, like everybody else."

"We have no benefits, and there is mandatory overtime but we can't miss a day or we can be fired," she said. "The company told me, 'You don't need a call out number — don't call out.'"

— James Harris

Auto bosses just keep expanding the workload

STREETSBORO, Ohio — A dozen UAW Local 573 members kept up a lively picket line at the Stellantis Mopar Cleveland Distribution Center here Sept. 26. There was a steady beeping of horns, particularly from drivers from FedEx, which is nonunion.

Gordon Everett, a retired GM worker from Pittsburgh, joined the picket. "They have been taking things away from us with the line, 'You've got to give it up or else we'll close the plant,'" he said.

"It's time to get some of it back," picket captain Rudy Murry agreed. "But I don't see the pension coming back." Murry said 401(k) investments in the stock market plummeted during the recession. "History can repeat itself," Everett said. "And then you ain't got nothing."

Shelby Nicholson, who has worked for Chrysler for 28 years, injured her back because of the heavy work picking orders. "They just increase the amount of tickets we're supposed to fill," she said. "They closed down another section and added the work to us."

— Candace Wagner

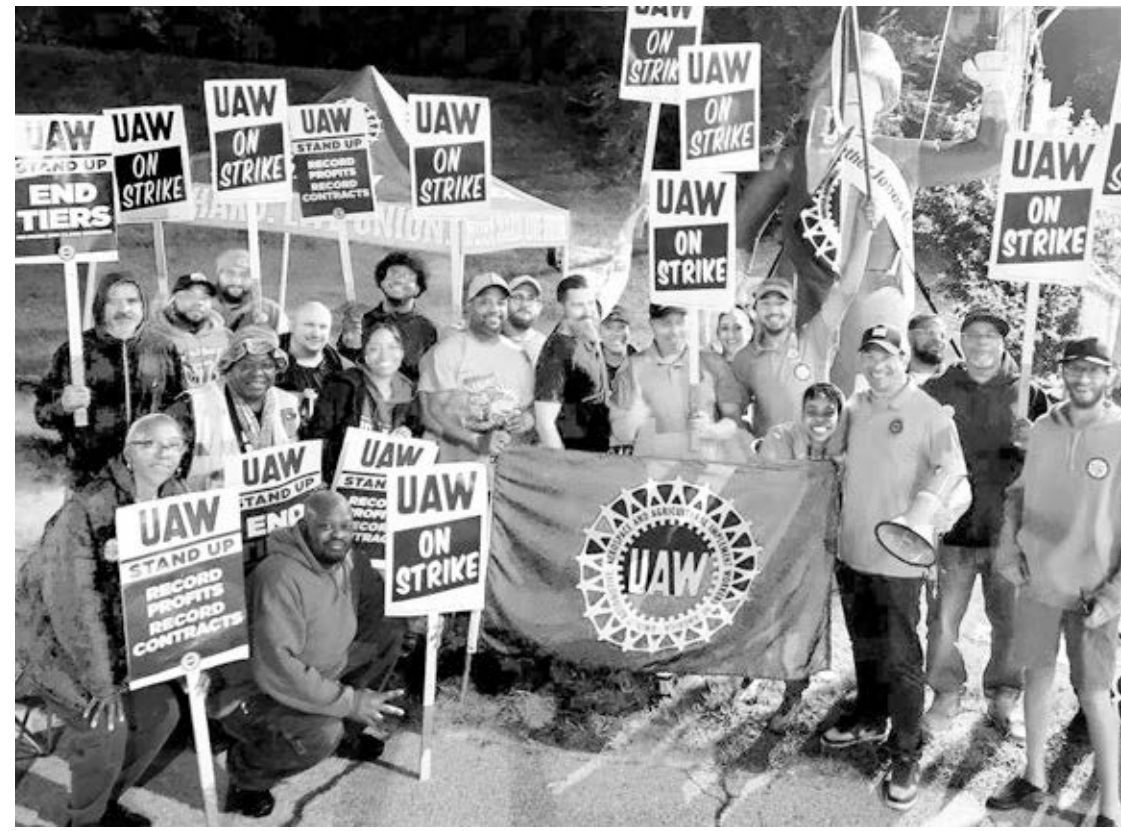
'Never had a bigger opportunity to make gains'

BEAVERTON, Ore. — A dozen workers picketed the Stellantis Parts Distribution Center here a few days after joining the national UAW strike. "The biggest demand is the tiers," said striker Geoffrey Barnes. "If tiers are still in the contract, I will vote no every time. It's a moral thing with people making less money for the same work."

"We've never had a better opportunity to make gains with what is happening with all the unions, like Teamsters at UPS," he said.

Many of the workers here transferred from Belvidere, Illinois, after the assembly plant there shut down earlier this year. "After the plant closes, pizza places and other businesses close," Barnes said. "It devastates the community."

Other unions and workers joined them



Left, UAW members at Ford plant in Chicago Sept. 29, after UAW officials called them out to join nationwide strike at Big Three auto companies. Above, rail workers join UAW picket line in Orlando, Florida, Oct. 2. President of SMART-TD Local 1138 sent a letter and a contribution for UAW strike fund, expressing solidarity and saying, "Your fight is our fight."

Rail workers say, 'Your fight is our fight'

ORLANDO, Fla. — Morale was high on the UAW Local 1649 picket lines at the Stellantis Distribution Center here Oct. 2. "We have to get rid of the two tiers and we need the cost-of-living adjustment. One trip to the grocery store for a family can be \$500," said Raul Medina, a utility worker.

Strikers say UPS drivers in the Teamsters union are not crossing the picket line. This worker-correspondent, a member of SMART-TD Local 1138, a co-worker who is an engineer in the BLET rail union, and a Walmart worker drove four hours from Miami to deliver a solidarity letter and \$150 collected from rail workers.

Local 1138, which represents workers at CSX and the Florida East Coast Railway, expresses "solidarity in your fight for dignity, safety and justice in your workplace," says the letter signed by Local President Damon Hamilton, three other local officials and this correspondent. "Rail workers have faced years of cuts in crew size and the worsening of new

hire training, which has contributed to recent deaths on the job and general unsafe conditions.

"Your fight is our fight."
— Laura Anderson

It's time to 'stand up' to end two tiers

HUDSON, Wis. — Over 100 people rallied at the GM parts plant here Sept. 29. Striking members of UAW Local 722 were joined by a number of area

UAW, BCTGM strikers back each other in Tennessee

Continued from front page

Nestle, Nestle Purina, Kind Bars, Abbott Nutrition and other companies to manufacture baby formula, pet foods, nutritional powders and other goods.

International Flavors and Fragrances bosses want to end paid lunch breaks, stop paying overtime after eight hours and cut contributions to workers' 401(k) retirement plans. Health insurance costs have gone up dramatically since the company changed insurers two years ago after merging with Dupont. IFF has 158 plants worldwide and its 2021 profits were \$11.7 billion.

"We're still hanging tough after four months," Cedric Wilson said on the IFF picket line. Wilson is a dryer operator in the plant and president of BCTGM Local 390G.

That afternoon two UAW members stopped by after their shift on the picket line at ACDelco. Jackie Buggs has been a regular on the IFF picket line to show solidarity. She said she and her friend Nikki "thought it was important to come by to show our support for the BCTGM too," she told the *Militant*. Wilson said the UAW "has been the strongest in showing us support. I plan to be out on their picket line too. We're all fighting for the whole working class."

"During the pandemic we worked like dogs," striker Zandra Lee said. "We got their product out so people could have their baby food and pet food and protein powder, while the CEOs sat at home safe from COVID. Now they treat us like we're garbage."

"They only offered us a 3% raise, which is an insult with the level of inflation," striker Chuck Seals said. "The autoworkers have the right idea with demanding 43% raises like the CEOs got."

"IFF didn't offer us anything," said Lee. "They just want to take and take. That meant we had to fight!"

Both picket lines are up 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Strikers welcome others to join them night or day. The BCTGM line is at 4272 S. Mendenhall Road and the UAW pickets at 5115 Pleasant Hill Road.

Contributions are needed for the IFF strike. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/iff-bctgm-local-390g-iff-memphis-workers-on-strike>.



Left, UAW members at Ford plant in Chicago Sept. 29, after UAW officials called them out to join nationwide strike at Big Three auto companies. Above, rail workers join UAW picket line in Orlando, Florida, Oct. 2. President of SMART-TD Local 1138 sent a letter and a contribution for UAW strike fund, expressing solidarity and saying, "Your fight is our fight."

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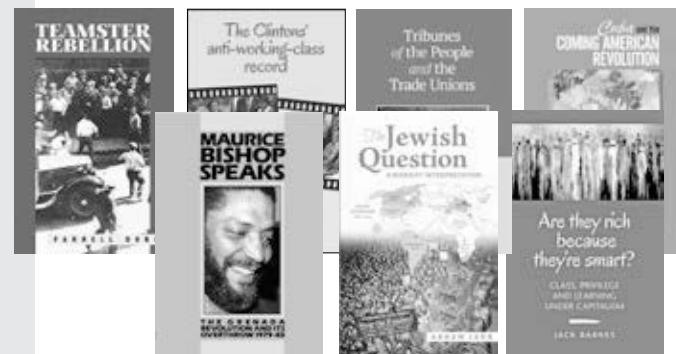
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Fidel's leadership key in defeat of South African invasion of Angola

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October is *Cuba & Angola: The War for Freedom* by Harry Villegas. Widely known as "Pombo," he fought alongside Che Guevara in Cuba, the Congo and in Bolivia. Pombo helped lead Cuba's volunteer military mission in Angola 1977-79, defending the newly independent country against invasion by the U.S.-backed apartheid regime of South Africa. From 1981 to 1988, until the South African forces were defeated, He served as liaison between Fidel Castro, Cuban commander-in-chief, and Cuba's internationalist forces in Angola. The book is based on interviews with Villegas by Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters and others. Copyright © 2017 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Courtesy Gerardo Hernández

Cuban platoon in Angola led by Gerardo Hernández, center, one of Cuban Five. Experience in Angola advanced Cuban Revolution, "strengthened us politically," Pombo explains in the book.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

HARRY VILLEGAS: Fidel's leadership was decisive in winning the victory. He was on top of everything, day in and day out. He went to the command post daily.

During the Cangamba battle, Polo spoke to the Commander every day at 7:00 p.m. by radio. I've described the foresight that Fidel demonstrated in that battle and the confidence he inspired in the troops. He was always concerned about the well-being of the combatants.

Che said Fidel's greatness lay in the details. During the struggle in Angola, he wanted to see everything, touch everything, verify everything. ...

Fidel always kept analyzing everything, the changing elements, and drew his conclusions. ...

MARY-ALICE WATERS: The internationalist aid to Angola over a nearly sixteen-year period was an enormous effort for a relatively small and economically underdeveloped nation such as Cuba. Beginning in 1989, almost simultaneous with the end of the Angola mission, the disintegration of the Soviet bloc regimes led to the collapse of most of Cuba's foreign trade agreements and many aid projects, sparking the severe economic crisis of the 1990s. Some Cubans express the view that the resources that went to help Angola should have been used at home.

VILLEGAS: Cuba's aid to Angola was not only worthwhile, but if we were in a position to do it again, we would.

If the South African army had not been defeated in Angola, would apartheid have been eliminated when it was? If we did nothing more than indirectly help defeat apartheid, our effort was unquestionably worthwhile.

Thanks to the victory in Angola, the Namibian people won their independence.

Perhaps it was a dream of ours to think that socialism could be built in Angola. But South Africa was prevented from carving up and dominating Angola.

Whether or not the final objectives were achieved, these are glorious pages in the history of the peoples that have

created the foundations for the future.

The internationalist mission in Angola strengthened us in every respect. But above all, I would say, in consciousness.

Angola exposed us to a reality very different from what we were familiar with in Cuba. We lived and struggled together with the Angolan people. We saw with our own eyes the legacy of centuries of colonialism and imperialism in Africa: hunger, disease, illiteracy, deep inequalities. The consequences of a system of exploitation that doesn't value the life of ordinary people.

That experience enriched us. It allowed us to better understand everything we have achieved with the revolution. To understand that the values of the revolution are superior to those of capitalism, where "every man for himself" prevails.

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans proved capable of self-sacrifice, of acting on behalf of other human beings, of defending sister peoples against the apartheid regime.

All that strengthened us politically.

The generations that went through those experiences included three of our Five Heroes [the Cuban Five] — Gerardo, Fernando, and René — who later carried out an internationalist mission in the United States in defense of the revolution.

It was not only a learning experience for those who took part in the internationalist mission. When you know that your father or mother or grandfather went to Angola as a volunteer, thousands of kilometers away, without receiving a cent, and risked his or her life, you admire and learn from that example.

As Raúl [Castro] said, thanks to Angola, "all of us know much better what we are capable of achieving." In the 1990s the experience of Angola helped us survive the hard years of the Special Period.

Today in Cuba we face big economic challenges. Without economic progress there can be no socialism. Our goal is to increase production of the means of subsistence, and to do it more efficiently. But above all else, we have to put human beings at the center of everything we do.

That's what we did in Angola. We proved capable of giving all in exchange for nothing. Nothing but the satisfaction of having fulfilled our commitment to humanity.

That's very important for the education of the new generations.

What Raúl said when our combatants returned from Angola in 1991 remains true today: "When we face new and unexpected challenges we will always be able to recall the epic of Angola with gratitude, because without Angola we would not be as strong as we are today."

We defeated the South Africans with minimum casualties

In Cuito Cuanavale the South Africans really broke their teeth. And it all came about with a minimum of casualties — a minimum of casualties! — for our own forces, the Angolan and Cuban forces.

The main idea was to stop them at Cuito Cuanavale and deal them blows from the southwest. Enough troops were gathered to seriously threaten points of strategic importance for South Africa and strike hard at them on terrain that we, not the enemy, had chosen.

We not only sent our best pilots to Angola, we also sent our best anti-aircraft weapons, a large amount of mobile anti-aircraft equipment, a good quantity of anti-aircraft missile artillery. We reinforced our air power and we sent as many tanks, armored troop carriers, and artillery pieces as were needed.

— Fidel Castro, Dec. 5, 1988

October
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials



Cuba & Angola: The War for Freedom
HARRY VILLEGAS
"Pombo," who fought alongside Che Guevara, explains decisive role of Cuban volunteer fighters in defeating the multiple invasions of Angola from 1975 to 1988 by apartheid South Africa.
\$10. **Special price \$7**

Fighting Racism in World War II
From the pages of the *Militant*
\$20. **Special price \$14**

The Struggle Is My Life
NELSON MANDELA
\$20. **Special price \$14**

Teamster Power
FARRELL DOBBS
\$16. **Special price \$11**

The Origins of Materialism
GEORGE NOVACK
\$15. **Special price \$10.50**

La última lucha de Lenin
(Lenin's Final Fight)
Speeches and Writings, 1922–23
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Bring labor's power to bear in UAW strike

Striking United Auto Workers at the Big Three are fighting to end conditions that confront tens of millions of workers across the country and beyond.

For decades, the capitalist bosses have pushed to defend their profits by a relentless assault on workers and the unions. They've driven down wages, introduced divisive two-tier contracts, slashed benefits, increasingly brought in temp workers, increased work schedules that wreak havoc with workers' families and personal lives, and instituted speedups that make every job more dangerous.

But that has started to change.

The fight being waged by autoworkers today is a fight for *all* labor. A UAW victory will give confidence to workers everywhere.

They need and deserve the backing of working people and the unions. Take advantage of this opportunity by bringing labor's power to bear. Mobilize your unions and co-workers to strengthen their picket lines.

Workers involved in union struggles today need to look at the history of the labor movement when it was on the offensive, like during the powerful mass working-class movement that built the CIO in the 1930s.

Workers don't have to start from scratch. There is

no better place to begin than by reading the firsthand account of the class battles that established the Teamsters as a powerful force across the Midwest, written by Socialist Workers Party leader Farrell Dobbs.

Study the history of the wave of UAW sit-in strikes that inspired workers everywhere and forced the Big Three to recognize the union.

These courageous workers acted on the necessity of working-class solidarity. They built alliances with the unemployed and with impoverished working farmers. They refused to bow down to the government, state regulatory agencies and the courts that tried to use injunctions, cops and the National Guard to defend the bosses' interests.

Through their struggles, they began to envision a world where the working class was in charge. They charted a road toward breaking from the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties and building a labor party based on the unions.

These lessons are discussed weekly in the *Militant*, and in books like Farrell Dobbs' four-volume *Teamsters* series and *Labor's Giant Step*, Art Preis's riveting history of the rise of the CIO. Get them, read them, study them. Share them with like-minded co-workers and friends. Join Socialist Workers Party members to help get them around.

Judge rules Trump is guilty, denies him a trial

Continued from front page

Engoron granted a motion for summary judgment by New York State Attorney General Letitia James in her \$250 million civil case against Trump. The judge ruled the former president, his sons Eric and Donald Jr., and two of his employees were guilty on seven counts of making false valuations of their properties in order to acquire loans on more favorable terms.

Engoron then cancelled the licenses Trump needs to handle real estate in New York and began steps for state authorities to seize his properties and businesses there, including Trump Tower. The judge's actions make a mockery of the Constitution's guarantee of the right to a trial.

The judge made the ruling despite the fact that none of the financial institutions or individuals Trump dealt with say there was anything misleading about the transactions they carried out. None claim to be the victim of a "crime." In fact, they all profited from the dealings.

While Trump has the right to appeal Engoron's ruling, the judge and James are driving ahead with the court proceeding based on his ruling. At issue now is the scope of the penalties to be imposed.

Engoron made his ruling despite an appellate panel decision in June that the statute of limitations appears to have run out on a number of the charges. The panel ordered Engoron to follow through on its findings.

But he refused to do so, and then rejected Trump's motion to delay the trial until a decision was made on what charges he actually faces.

A centerpiece of Engoron's ruling is based on a Palm Beach County tax assessor who valued Trump's Mar-a-Lago property at \$18 million, well below Trump's estimate of between \$400 million and \$600 million. But Palm Beach real estate broker Lee Allen Schulz and other property dealers there challenged the judge's figures.

"I spoke with my appraisers," Schulz told the press, and "they thought the \$18 million was ridiculous." The property, which was valued by *Forbes* magazine at \$160 million in 2018, has 128 rooms, a 20,000-square-foot ballroom, tennis courts, a pool and beachfront on two sides of the island.

The judge was so embarrassed by the publicity ridiculing his decision that he started the Oct. 2 trial by saying, "Please, press, stop saying that I valued it at \$18 million."

So Trump has been found guilty of a "crime" in which there is no victim and for which a higher court says the statute of limitations has likely passed. And all *without* the right to a trial.

Millions of working people know from experience that the right to trial by jury and the presumption of

innocence are under constant threat. Bully prosecutors and compliant judges press plea bargain deals on workers by threatening more severe sentences if a case goes to trial. Over 90% of criminal prosecutions end with a plea bargain today. Trump refused to cop a plea, but was denied the right to a trial anyway.

For good measure, Engoron sanctioned some of Trump's lawyers \$7,500 each, claiming they continued to use arguments that Engoron had rejected.

Democrats tear up constitutional rights

To try and rig the 2024 election for Biden, Democratic Party prosecutors are pursuing four criminal cases against Trump. This includes a racketeering case brought by Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis against the former president and 18 others. RICO statutes have been used to go after and frame up trade unionists for decades.

Willis claims that in these kind of conspiracy cases, she "does not have to prove all, or indeed *any*, overt acts attributed to the defendant to achieve a conviction."

Under RICO laws, she says, what is being charged is not an "overt act but instead the defendant's 'alleged *association* with the conspiracy.'" By making the charge so vague, she makes it almost impossible for the accused to defend themselves, dealing blows to their basic rights and the rights of working people.

Two of the three other cases against Trump involve federal prosecutions being pursued by Justice Department special prosecutor Jack Smith, one in Florida and one in Washington, D.C.

The fourth case is the continuing prosecution by New York DA Alvin Bragg, charging Trump with falsifying business records to cover up other crimes he isn't charged with. Bragg insists New York law doesn't require him to specify them.

Smith's Washington, D.C., prosecution is in the news because he is demanding Judge Tanya Chutkan slap a gag order on Trump, preventing the presidential candidate from speaking publicly about the judge, prosecutors, jury pool or witnesses against him.

Even the Trump-hating *New York Times*, which normally has no qualms in deep-sixing the Constitution to target him, has to admit Smith's motion "presents a thorny conflict" involving "his First Amendment rights."

Defending political freedoms is vital, whether it's a capitalist politician like Trump, or a worker, who is under attack. Safeguarding rights is crucial for building unions, campaigning against Washington's embargo of Cuba and protesting its preparations for more wars. These protections are used whenever workers speak out on political questions in our own class interests.

Libya flood catastrophe

Continued from front page

perialist world war the British and French rulers took control of a largely destroyed country.

During anti-colonial struggles after the war, Libya won its independence in 1951. After the discovery of oil in the late 1950s, the imperialist powers looked to profit. A coup in 1969 brought Moammar Gadhafi to power. Following an uprising against his authoritarian rule in 2011, U.S.-led NATO forces carried out more than 9,600 bombing missions, overthrew his regime and killed him.

This history of colonial plunder has left Libya impoverished, with no central ruling government, and an object of big-power intrigue.

The two dams, built of clay and rock in the late 1970s, have for decades needed major maintenance work and upgrades. This was never done. Torrential rains have been pounding the area for years. Each time the dams were further damaged, until they finally gave out.

Entire neighborhoods in Derna, a city of nearly 90,000, were washed into the sea. Buildings fell into the mud, trapping residents under rubble. The rampaging tide shattered roads and bridges. More than 6,000 people were killed and thousands more are still missing. Over 43,000 survivors have been displaced.

Construction worker Mohamad Mahmoud Ismail Al-Shalwi rushed back to Derna. "When I came, I found everything — my building, my family, the whole neighborhood — under the sea," he told NBC News.

The day before the storm hit, Derna's then-mayor, Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi, told the media some areas near the dam should be evacuated. Instead, authorities imposed a curfew and told residents to shelter at home.

In the absence of government response, volunteers and aid workers from other towns and cities have come to help. Nawal Alghazal, a 62-year-old resident of Benghazi, started a campaign to collect breast milk to feed babies whose mothers are dead or missing. "The least we can do for our country and the people in Derna is to take care of their children," she told the *Guardian*.

Since the 2011 mass uprising and imperialist murder of Gadhafi there's been no stable government in Libya, leaving working people to fend for themselves.

In western Libya, Abdul Hamid Dbeiba heads the Government of National Unity. Arrayed against his rule is Libyan National Army Gen. Khalifa Haftar, who is based in the eastern part of the country, where Derna is located.

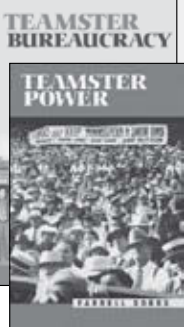
Decades of inaction on dam repairs

The residents of Derna are "extremely vulnerable to flood risk," wrote Abdelwanees Ashoor, a hydraulic engineer at Omar Al-Mukhtar University in Libya, in 2022. "In the event of a big flood, the consequences will be disastrous."

Ten years after major damage to the dam from the 1986 storm, a government study revealed cracks and fissures in the dam. But it wasn't until 2007 that a Turkish company, Arsel, was hired to repair the dams and build a new one. Initial work didn't begin until three years later, then was halted in 2011 as protests mounted against Gadhafi's rule. Arsel left the country. No concrete or asphalt had been poured, nor pipes laid.

Government funds allocated to dam repair disappeared. The ruling factions, as well as the imperialist powers, knew the danger that was looming. But this was not a major concern for Washington, London, Paris or Rome, whose priority was finding a road to reap superprofits through exploiting Libya's vast oil wealth. Nor for the rival capitalist forces inside Libya vying to take their share of the booty.

Teamster Series

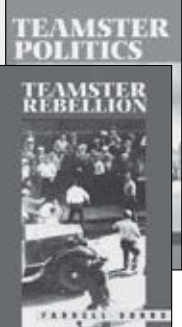


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