Combining this glorious day to honor working-class struggle began in the United States more than a century ago, but was submerged here during decades of red-baiting and class collaboration. Even as workers around the world were marching by the millions on International Workers’ Day, it seemed like the class struggle had been extinguished in the U.S.

But not any more. This year militant May Day marches took place in scores of cities across the U.S., some with tens of thousands participating.

It was the massive eruption of millions of immigrant workers in 2006, especially in Los Angeles, that first ignited interest in May Day in a younger generation of oppressed workers.

Since then, immigrants have played a leading role all over the country in organizing against low wages, stolen wages, forced unpaid overtime, anti-union laws, unsafe working conditions, and racist and sexist discrimination by the bosses.

Where there were no unions, they organized. Where unions existed, they fought to make them fight.

This important role of immigrants in showing how to resist and improve workers’ lives through organization and struggle is reminiscent of the leading role immigrants played in the very first May Day commemorations here, back in the late 1880s. Then, they came primarily...

Continued on page 11
RESIST NOW! Invest in Workers World!

- If you agree with WW that Trump’s mass deportation plan must be stopped
- If you believe the racist establishment — from killer cops to the injustice of the courts — has to go
- If you find the anti-trans ruling by Trump’s Education secretary a outrage
- If you support the blatant warmongering targeting Syria, Israel, and Russia
- If you’re sick and tired of the bankers and bosses getting tax breaks while making the workers pay for the crisis they didn’t create
- If you want to fight for socialism, a way of life based on economic planning, equitable distribution and justice for all
- If you’re lucky enough to still have a decent-paying job or pension

Then please invest some of your hard-earned dollars in Workers World!

Join the Workers World Supporter Program and help grow the paper. We established the WWWP some 50 years ago so readers could in- vest in the paper and promote working-class truth needed to make revolutionary change. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and free subscriptions to give to friends for a donation of $30 a year. For $100 you also get a new publication or book from World View Forum. For $100 (only $25 a month) or more, your gift isn’t limited to five books.

Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. We are grateful for your help in building Workers World — today and for the future!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, megagenerational and multigen- dered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and autor- ity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved un- der capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Workers World Party branch near you:

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

- Denver: denver@workers.org
- Detroit: 313-929-2020
- Houston: houston@workers.org
- Washington, D.C.: washington.dc@workers.org
- New York, N.Y. 10011: Phone: 212.627.2994
- E-mail: wwp@workers.org

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl. New York, NY, 10011

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should re- main in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital- ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guar- antee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Report by Monica Moorehead

Students walk out over layoffs

Hundreds of students at Bayonne High School held a spontaneous walkout from classes on April 27 in Bayonne, N.J. They were protest- ing the layoffs of 300 staff members, including 261 teachers, 15 secretaries, eight engineers and two bus drivers.

The local school board announced the layoffs during their meeting the night before, after it had been announced that no layoffs were to take place. In fact, a majority of the fired teachers had been promised tenure for the fall semester.

The students marched to City Hall, where they chanted and ex- pressed how deeply they feel for their teachers. Sultan Ahman stated, “I’m losing my math teacher, my history teacher and my gym teach- er.” Elmer Beltran added, “We care about them. They are our mentors. We tell them about our problems.” (abcsnewyork.com, April 28)

April Polusnas, a parent, said, “I’m absolutely ashamed that they’re doing this to the teachers right now. It leaves everyone unstable. It leaves our students not knowing what they’re going to be doing.”

— Report by Monica Moorehead
Trump, the gangster president

By Fred Goldstein

In accordance with their role in capitalist society, most high government officials, elected or appointed, have gangster-like qualities. These officials spend much of their time conspiring with the wealthy on schemes for fleecing or otherwise attacking the masses of people. Unlike the mob, they must carry out their schemes within the framework of capitalist politics. The mob is differentiated from the capitalist state in that the state is not constrained to carry out their crimes under cover of legality. On the contrary, mob activities function outside the law. The state takes the form of silent consent of the ruling class and its political leadership to enable the mob activities to function outside the boundaries of bourgeois legality with the support of the law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, mob criminals are on a vastly smaller scale than the criminals of the Pentagon, the CIA, the FBI, and the People’s Republic of China. The mob is organized as a gang, whereas the state is organized as a police state. This means that the state does not add to Washington’s instability. It is the executive committee of the ruling party in America that is the source of instability. Thus, the mass media and political leaders of the mob are the ideological leaders of the state.

The mob is differentiated from the capitalist state in that the state is not constrained to carry out its crimes under cover of legality. On the contrary, mob activities function outside the boundaries of bourgeois legality with the support of the law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, mob criminals are on a vastly smaller scale than the criminals of the Pentagon, the CIA, the FBI, and the People’s Republic of China. The mob is organized as a gang, whereas the state is organized as a police state. This means that the state does not add to Washington’s instability. It is the executive committee of the ruling party in America that is the source of instability. Thus, the mass media and political leaders of the mob are the ideological leaders of the state.

Although Mr. Kushner recently purchased $1 billion in real estate in New Jersey, he does not want them to wreck their system. Thus, they have taken measures against him. In the first place, they have surrounded him with generals and Wall Street bankers in the White House and the Cabinet.

Trump is stonewalled on budget, overruled on NAFTA

But most recently they have given him a beating in the budget negotiations. In the latest $1.2 trillion budget, Trump came away empty handed, despite all his bullying and blandishments. In the negotiations, Trump was overruled by the trusted congressional representatives of the ruling class on key issues:

• Trump wanted the National Institutes of Health budget slashed by $1.2 billion. But when it came to the Pentagon’s anti-missile system, Trump got what he asked for.

• Trump asked for the Environmental Protection Agency budget to be slashed by 33 percent. Instead it was cut by 1 percent.

• Planned Parenthood will continue to be funded at current levels in states that do not vote to defund it.

• Trump asked for $80 billion in tax breaks for the rich, but when he came up with a plan to defeat the Islamic State group, there was nothing for his border Wall; border security funds for new technology and repairs; only; in fact, funds were cut. Border security was a budget category and there was no money for a deportation force.

• Health care subsidies for the poor will remain the (money goes to the insurance companies)

The Trump administration said it was no longer considering pulling out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. We know that the Pentagon is not going to pull out of the moribund NAFTA. There is no reason to expect a change in policy, because the military-industrial complex has its own agenda, but instead, Trump picked this moment to tell the south Korean government that he wants to tear up the trade agreement with their country. It is a “bad agreement” negotiated by President Obama, according to Trump. Actually, it was negotiated under George W. Bush.

To make matters worse, Trump told the south Korean government that it would have to pay $1 billion for the Pentagon’s Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-missile system. Korea, however, has been existing agreement by the U.S. to pay the cost of its deployment. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster had to get to the phone with south Korean officials and reassure them the U.S. would pay. (WSJ, April 30)

Trump has an excessive view of his personal powers, to say the least. He claims to have a good relationship with the DPRK, the People’s Republic of Korea. He boasts that because of his phone calls with Xi, China is going to help the U.S. government out of its fix with the defiant Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Trump has tried to sweet-talk China and tough-talk the DPRK. But the truth is that the PRC leadership, especially its military, the People’s Liberation Army, cannot ignore the overriding facts of the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

In a phone call on April 23, President Xi asked Trump to refrain from escalating tensions in the region, even if the DPRK announces the testing of nuclear or ballistic missiles. Xi made an appeal to Trump not to go tit-for-tat and to move in the direction of negotiations. Trump has been so belligerent with Xi that the DPRK should be pressured to give up its struggle to build a nuclear deterrent. But, in reality, the head of the PRC asked Trump to de-escalate.

One day later, on April 24, in the dead of night, the U.S. deployed the THAAD anti-ballistic missile system in south Korea, which is equipped with high-powered radar that reaches beyond the DPRK into China and can be used to spy on the Chinese military. The PRC has already said this deployment would destabilize the strategic balance in the region in favor of U.S. imperialism.

The Chinese leadership and the PLA are fully aware of the threat. It cannot be a coincidence that on the same day as the deployment, China test-launched its first domestically made aircraft carrier. The ship is due to be completed in 2020. China has already fielded its first aircraft carrier built entirely on its own, in a demonstration of the growing technical sophistication of its defense industry. China is also demonstrating the depth and length of its maritime territorial claims and crucial trade routes. The 30,000-ton carrier was towed from its dockyard just after 9 a.m. Washington time in April 26.

But the unspoken message is that China has its own naval power, including a fully armed and functional Soviet-built carrier which it obtained from Ukraine and refurbished. China restrained its response to Trump and the Pentagon by not deploying its armed aircraft carrier and deploying the unfinished one instead. But the message was sent.

What is also clear from these events is that the U.S. is not playing cards with the Chinese on key issues: the United States is the enemy of the people.)

In accordance with their role in capitalist society, most high government officials, elected or appointed, have gangster-like qualities. These officials spend much of their time conspiring with the wealthy on schemes for fleecing or otherwise attacking the masses of people. Unlike the mob, they must carry out their schemes within the framework of capitalist politics. The mob is differentiated from the capitalist state in that the state is not constrained to carry out its crimes under cover of legality. On the contrary, mob activities function outside the boundaries of bourgeois legality with the support of the law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, mob criminals are on a vastly smaller scale than the criminals of the Pentagon, the CIA, the FBI, and the People’s Republic of China. The mob is organized as a gang, whereas the state is organized as a police state. This means that the state does not add to Washington’s instability. It is the executive committee of the ruling party in America that is the source of instability. Thus, the mass media and political leaders of the mob are the ideological leaders of the state.

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

Workers.org

May 4, 2017

The ruling class is responsible for keeping Trump in office and for every racist, reactionary thing he does. Trump is their representative as a class and the masses must hold the capitalists accountable for every crime Trump commits against the people.

Low-Wage Capitalism

What globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

Available at all major online booksellers.
The real loan sharks

By Stephen Millies

The feds have arrested 10 “white collar bandits” in New York City’s Harbor Beach neighborhood, a neighborhood made notorious by the racist mob killing of African-American Michael Griffith in 1986. The gangsters allegedly hotelied up within 26 miles over 17 years (New York Daily News, March 20).

That’s change. The REAL loan sharks made as much money by choking our neighborhoods for years. (New York Times, April 3)

3) The loan sharks at Salomon Brothers — now part of Citibank — ruined the economy. (New York Times, April 3)

IOWA Workers resist attack on minimum wage

By Mike Hulme

The real loan sharks

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Racist, anti-worker Acosta to head Labor Department

Alexander Acosta became secretary of Labor on April 27, the last member of the Trump team. The history of anti-Cuba rea-
tionaries, Acosta clerked for archconservative judge Samuel Alito before his appointment to the Supreme Court and was a bizarrely lenient worker murderer on the National Labor Relations Board. His actions as assistant attorney general in the Justice Department under President George W. Bush also exposed him as a virulent racist. In an Ohio voting rights case in 2007, Acosta sided with Ohio Republicans who engaged in a racially moti-
vated, illegal tactic known as “vote caging” — challenging the credentials of 23,000 mostly Black voters.

Kristen Clarke, executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, was “astounded” that Acosta would “lead a federal agency tasked with promoting lawful hiring practices and safe workplaces,” since a 2008 federal report found that at least 400,000 Latinos are homeless in the United States. (Wall Street Journal, Apr 27)

New York City agrees to pay

New York City red in the public eye有两个绰号。一个绰号是“中产阶级”因为它的居民主要是中产阶级，另一个绰号是“屌丝”因为它的居民主要是屌丝。
LYNNE STEWART
Celebrating the life of a people’s lawyer

By Dolores Cox
New York

Hundreds of people gathered on April 22 at St. Peter’s Church in New York City to celebrate the life of Lynne Stewart. Their message was clear: Lynne Stewart should be commemorated and her legacy honored. Lynne Stewart was a lawyer for Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who was blind. He was falsely accused by the U.S. government of participating in a “terrorist conspiracy” in New York City in 1995 that resulted in the bombing of a New York City twin towers. Lynne died on February 16, 2017. Lynne had issued a press release on Sheikh Rahman’s behalf. As a result, she was convicted of conspiring to “aid and abet terrorism” and given a 10-year prison sentence. Lynne Stewart, with spouse Ralph Poynter, fought to stop the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal in 2003.

Lynne Stewart was a lawyer for Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who was blind. He was falsely accused by the U.S. government of participating in a “terrorist conspiracy” in New York City in 1995 that resulted in the bombing of a New York City twin towers. Lynne died on February 16, 2017. Lynne had issued a press release on Sheikh Rahman’s behalf. As a result, she was convicted of conspiring to “aid and abet terrorism” and given a 10-year prison sentence. Lynne Stewart, with spouse Ralph Poynter, fought to stop the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal in 2003.

Lynne Stewart was a lawyer for Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who was blind. He was falsely accused by the U.S. government of participating in a “terrorist conspiracy” in New York City in 1995 that resulted in the bombing of a New York City twin towers. Lynne died on February 16, 2017. Lynne had issued a press release on Sheikh Rahman’s behalf. As a result, she was convicted of conspiring to “aid and abet terrorism” and given a 10-year prison sentence. Lynne Stewart, with spouse Ralph Poynter, fought to stop the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal in 2003.

Lynne Stewart was a lawyer for Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who was blind. He was falsely accused by the U.S. government of participating in a “terrorist conspiracy” in New York City in 1995 that resulted in the bombing of a New York City twin towers. Lynne died on February 16, 2017. Lynne had issued a press release on Sheikh Rahman’s behalf. As a result, she was convicted of conspiring to “aid and abet terrorism” and given a 10-year prison sentence. Lynne Stewart, with spouse Ralph Poynter, fought to stop the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal in 2003.
Mumia hearing: ‘Too much justice?’
By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia
Bulletin: As we go to press, Judge Leon Tucker on May 1 has ruled in favor of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s demand for discovery of the Pennsylvania district attorney office’s files pertinent to his case. (See article below.) In other words, the district attorney is being ordered to open up their files to Abu-Jamal’s attorneys.
Judge Tucker ruled that the DA’s office is to turn over records to the attorneys within 30 days, with Abu-Jamal being given 15 days to file amendments to his post-conviction petitions.
This is an unquestionable win for Abu-Jamal. However, it is likely that the DA’s office will appeal the ruling and find other reasons not to comply. It is now more important than ever that the movement be vigilant.

A petition filed on behalf of political prisoner and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal focused on a new appeal in his decades-long case, was heard in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas on April 24. Abu-Jamal was represented by Chris-tina Swarns and Judith Ritter from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.
Swarns challenged the Commonwealth’s claim that Castille had “played no personal role” in Abu-Jamal’s case. She noted that the state had made the same arguments in the Williams’ case before a discovery motion filed on his behalf. The judge noted that the DA’s office was lying. Abu-Jamal’s attorney asked Judge Tucker to rule on a discovery motion to review the DA’s records of the case.

Appeal based on role of Justice Castille
Swarns challenged the Commonwealth’s claim that Castille had “played no personal role” in Abu-Jamal’s case. He noted that the state had made the same arguments in the Williams’ case before a discovery motion filed on his behalf. The judge noted that the DA’s office was lying. Abu-Jamal’s attorney asked Judge Tucker to rule on a discovery motion to review the DA’s records of the case.

DA Eisenberg, a protégé of Castille, focused most of his arguments on trying to challenge the timeliness of the appeal and seeking to deny or minimize the extent of Castille’s involvement in Abu-Jamal’s case. Tucker eventually responded, asking Eisenberg to explain just how the case could have moved forward without Castille’s approval.
The DA ended his presentation by arguing about just how much access to due process Abu-Jamal should receive. He stated that granting Abu-Jamal’s case would “be a huge impact” on the higher courts. “At some point you just have to draw the line.”
Swarns responded by pointing out that the Commonwealth’s concern cannot be about how long Abu-Jamal’s appeals process might take or that he would receive “too much justice.” She stated that minimum Abu-Jamal was entitled to was a review of the DA’s records on his case to determine the extent of Castille’s involvement.
“If the review shows that Castille wasn’t involved, then we won’t need to be concerned about how much justice Mumia Abu-Jamal receives,” Swarns concluded.

Tucker concluded the hearing stating that a decision would be made shortly. A lively press conference outside the court building followed the hearing. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys reported on what had happened. Other speakers, including Pam Africa and Suzanne Ross, addressed the need to widen support for the movement and to free Mumia and to raise his case at upcoming May Day actions.

Movement power wins access to Mumia
By Suzanne Ross
Frackville, Pa.
Ona Move! We did it again! The move-ment’s will and forceful response got what we wanted and what we were enti-tled to: information about where political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is being held in the “correctional system” and the oppor-tunity to see him.
A petition filed on behalf of political prisoner and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal focused on a new appeal in his decades-long case, was heard in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas on April 24. Abu-Jamal was represented by Christina Swarns and Judith Ritter from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.
Swarns challenged the Commonwealth’s claim that Castille had “played no personal role” in Abu-Jamal’s case. He noted that the state had made the same arguments in the Williams’ case before a discovery motion filed on his behalf. The judge noted that the DA’s office was lying. Abu-Jamal’s attorney asked Judge Tucker to rule on a discovery motion to review the DA’s records of the case.

DA Eisenberg, a protégé of Castille, focused most of his arguments on trying to challenge the timeliness of the appeal and seeking to deny or minimize the extent of Castille’s involvement in Abu-Jamal’s case. Tucker eventually responded, asking Eisenberg to explain just how the case could have moved forward without Castille’s approval.
The DA ended his presentation by arguing about just how much access to due process Abu-Jamal should receive. He stated that granting Abu-Jamal’s case would “be a huge impact” on the higher courts. “At some point you just have to draw the line.”
Swarns responded by pointing out that the Commonwealth’s concern cannot be about how long Abu-Jamal’s appeals process might take or that he would receive “too much justice.” She stated that minimum Abu-Jamal was entitled to was a review of the DA’s records on his case to determine the extent of Castille’s involvement.
“If the review shows that Castille wasn’t involved, then we won’t need to be concerned about how much justice Mumia Abu-Jamal receives,” Swarns concluded.

Tucker concluded the hearing stating that a decision would be made shortly. A lively press conference outside the court building followed the hearing. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys reported on what had happened. Other speakers, including Pam Africa and Suzanne Ross, addressed the need to widen support for the movement and to free Mumia and to raise his case at upcoming May Day actions.

“We need more young revolutionaries out here taking up the cause of Mumia Abu-Jamal. ... We need your energy and your spirit. ... Your involve-ment could be the decisive issue to free Mumia.”
Live streaming of the rally can be seen at youtube.com/watch?v=QKomagCTIiE.

The large number of youth helping lead the march that followed showed that they were ready to throw down with the City Hall and rallyed in the cold and damp weather for hours. They held an indoor event, “Resistance Matters,” that evening at the Arch Street United Methodist Church.

Speakers there addressed the legal is-sues, the victorious two-year struggle to get hepatitis C medications for Abu-Jamal and the ongoing fight over toxic water in Pennsylvania prisons and Philadelphia public schools. They also wished a “happy birthday” to Abu-Jamal, who turned 63 on April 24.

Abu-Jamal was scheduled for execu-tion in 1995 and 1999 but was saved by mass international protests. In 2012, after years of mass pressure, the courts removed him from death row and re-scheduled the executions. He was promised life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Just weeks ago, supporters forced the prison system to provide Abu-Jamal with life-saving medication for hepatitis C, after a two-year-long campaign in court and on the streets. This latest court proceeding was another battle in the 35-year effort to win justice and freedom for one of the world’s best-known political prisoners.

IOWA Minimum wage
Continued from page 4
National Employment Law Project Chris-tine Owens issued a statement on March 28 calling the Iowa Legislature’s decision “a new low in the callous, corporate-driv-en push to block living wages for the state’s lowest wage earners.”

“Iowa CCI, the Center for Worker Jus-tice of Eastern Iowa, the Service Employ-ees, AFSCME, CEE and other groups are fighting against HF 295 and other anti-worker legislation.”
Fagan-Reiburn said, “We will continue to fight for a minimum-wage increase to $15 per hour for all Iowans. We knew this would be a long-term fight, and we’ll continue to hold our politicians respon-sible to put people before profit and big-moneyed corporations.”

Mumia and his brother Keith Cook, April 13.
Resistance greets firing of Tom Cat workers

By Mattie Starrdust

Workers World Party and its editorial staff received notices on Feb. 21, March 31 and April 5 from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) that three issues of Workers World newspaper had been denied entry to all prisons in the state. The reason given for this outright censorship is: “In the DOC’s own words: ‘Information contained [in the publication] advocated a May Day strike.’”

Throughout its history, Workers World Party has maintained close ties with political prisoners and prisoners of the ongoing U.S. war against Black and Brown and poor white workers. The Prisoners Solidarity Committee, formed in the late 1960s by Workers World Party and Youth Against War and Fascism, organized in the belief that prisoners are not “criminals” but oppressed peoples often driven by poverty to commit “crimes” of survival. The PSC agitated for the release of imprisoned activists Angela Davis, George Jackson, Assata Shakur and other revolutionary figures, as well as Joanne Little, who killed a white jailer in North Carolina when he attempted to rape her. When prisoners at Attica in upstate New York rose up and took control of the prison, they specifically requested that two members of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee be allowed in to witness their negotiations with the authorities.

For decades Workers World Party has championed the cause of imprisoned revolutionary journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, framed for the 1981 shooting of a Philadelphia police officer. In 2011, thanks to the efforts of the international journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia police dropped two C-4 bombs on her organization’s home, killing 11 people. Read along as we discuss the history of MOVE and what it means to be a freedom fighter.

This is Part 5 of a five-part interview by Lamont Lilly, the 2016 Workers World Party candidate for U.S. vice president.

Ramona Africa: It was not until they took me into custody and to the local hospital that I was looking for the rest of my family, but nobody came in. I’m in the hospital and wondering what was going on. I didn’t find out until I left the hospital and was taken to the police administration building to the homicide unit. Only then did I find out that there were no other survivors other than me and my young brother, Birdie Africa. (tymurl.com/hp9mgs) The police were content to placating me with the murder of my family.

Lamont Lilly: Are you serious? That’s ridiculous!

RA: Absolutely ridiculous! They charged me with everything they did: possession of explosives, arson, causing a catastrophe, attempted murder, simple and aggravated assault. But the charges that they brought me at were all dismissed when I was able to challenge them in the pretrial. They eventually dropped those charges. Oh, and I forgot, they also threw me in “terrorist threats,” which was ridiculous.

LL: So let me get this clear, Ramona. You survived two bombings, the bullets, the fire hoses, the tear gas. You’re out of the hospital, and the next thing you know you’re in the police department being charged with attempted murder and arson?

RA: Yep. Yes, I was. And that was another eye-opener for me because when all the charges and the warrants that they came at me with very, very, very, very, dismissed, it seems like anything that came from these bogus warrants would have to be dropped as well. But for some reason for being out there, we were invalid, then how could anything that was a result of their presence be valid? But they were never going to drop all the charges on me.

LL: Did you serve time for any of those charges?

RA: Yes. I did. First of all, I had a $4.5 million bail, $4.5 million! I was in prison from May 13 of 1985 until May 13 of 1992 because I was convicted of “rioting,” if you can believe that. I was sentenced to 16 months and seven years. When my 16-month minimum was up, I was told by the parole board that they would parole me in two weeks. I only if I agreed to work with MOVE. Sever all ties! And I wasn’t about to do that. Instead of being released at 16 months, I did the whole seven years. At least one incarcerated subscriber in Pennsylvania was never informed by prison officials as to why his weekly Workers World paper did not arrive. The prisoner states, according to a grievance filed by him and obtained by Workers World: “I was not notified by PA DOC nor Houtzdale [State Correctional Institution]. I was not given opportunity to appeal ban. [...] This is a major problem of censorship.”

An April 21 letter mailed to the Pennsylvania DOC from the Workers World Philadelphia Bureau challenges the censorship:

“The reason for the denial is unwarranted, unjustified and spirituel. It is a gross attempt by the DOC to suppress all dissent, including legal. First Amendment protected speech. Please accept this letter as an official appeal of the decision to censor Workers World newspaper.”

“Please also review the decisions to withhold notice from the inmates, as we believe these decisions have been made in violation of applicable laws and prisoners’ constitutional rights. Please also furnish all Workers World subscribers held in Pennsylvania prisons with the notification to which they are entitled, and the chance to exercise their due process rights to appeal these decisions themselves.”

Workers World will use all available means to fight the Pennsylvania DOC’s heavy-handed, punitive and unconstitutional censorship. Subscribers and censers alike should know that no amount of repression will ever be enough to block back on the prison movement which, after a period of dormancy, has emerged stronger and more militant than ever.

“Hands off prisoners’ free press rights!” Forward to the May Day Global Strike!

Prisons censor WW call for May Day strike

By John Steffin

New York City

The racist, anti-worker bosses at Tom Cat Bakers finally carried out the wishes of the repressive state on April 21 and fired over 30 workers who failed to show papers following the March 19 audit by the Department of Homeland Security. This is the first time, in at least 15 years, in New York City has collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This escalation, in a sense, however, was met with resistance.

On the morning of April 21, four community members and activists chained themselves to the front gate of Tom Cat Bakers, shutting down a production line for over an hour. Nearly 200 activists then picketed the bakery and vowed to intervene, if necessary, in any ICE raids. Several of the workers under threat spoke at the protest and shared their stories. Many of them had worked at the factory for a long time before the audit, upwards of 16 years, and have deep ties to the community.

The deportations, and now firings, of immigrants are generating massive political energy in migrant communities, as well as mobilization across the country. The Tom Cat workers, shortly after the firings, confirmed that they will participate in this year’s May Day strike in New York City.

Resistance greets firing of Tom Cat workers

By John Steffin

New York City

The racist, anti-worker bosses at Tom Cat Bakers finally carried out the wishes of the repressive state on April 21 and fired over 30 workers who failed to show papers following the March 19 audit by the Department of Homeland Security. This is the first time, in at least 15 years, in New York City has collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This escalation, in a sense, however, was met with resistance.

On the morning of April 21, four community members and activists chained themselves to the front gate of Tom Cat Bakers, shutting down a production line for over an hour. Nearly 200 activists then picketed the bakery and vowed to intervene, if necessary, in any ICE raids. Several of the workers under threat spoke at the protest and shared their stories. Many of them had worked at the factory for a long time before the audit, upwards of 16 years, and have deep ties to the community.

The deportations, and now firings, of immigrants are generating massive political energy in migrant communities, as well as mobilization across the country. The Tom Cat workers, shortly after the firings, confirmed that they will participate in this year’s May Day strike in New York City.

By John Steffin

New York City

The racist, anti-worker bosses at Tom Cat Bakers finally carried out the wishes of the repressive state on April 21 and fired over 30 workers who failed to show papers following the March 19 audit by the Department of Homeland Security. This is the first time, in at least 15 years, in New York City has collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This escalation, in a sense, however, was met with resistance.

On the morning of April 21, four community members and activists chained themselves to the front gate of Tom Cat Bakers, shutting down a production line for over an hour. Nearly 200 activists then picketed the bakery and vowed to intervene, if necessary, in any ICE raids. Several of the workers under threat spoke at the protest and shared their stories. Many of them had worked at the factory for a long time before the audit, upwards of 16 years, and have deep ties to the community.

The deportations, and now firings, of immigrants are generating massive political energy in migrant communities, as well as mobilization across the country. The Tom Cat workers, shortly after the firings, confirmed that they will participate in this year’s May Day strike in New York City.

By John Steffin

New York City

The racist, anti-worker bosses at Tom Cat Bakers finally carried out the wishes of the repressive state on April 21 and fired over 30 workers who failed to show papers following the March 19 audit by the Department of Homeland Security. This is the first time, in at least 15 years, in New York City has collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This escalation, in a sense, however, was met with resistance.

On the morning of April 21, four community members and activists chained themselves to the front gate of Tom Cat Bakers, shutting down a production line for over an hour. Nearly 200 activists then picketed the bakery and vowed to intervene, if necessary, in any ICE raids. Several of the workers under threat spoke at the protest and shared their stories. Many of them had worked at the factory for a long time before the audit, upwards of 16 years, and have deep ties to the community.

The deportations, and now firings, of immigrants are generating massive political energy in migrant communities, as well as mobilization across the country. The Tom Cat workers, shortly after the firings, confirmed that they will participate in this year’s May Day strike in New York City.
Massive general strike displays people power

By G. Dunkel

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly will decide on May 23 whether to extend the “temporary protected status” of 50,000 Haitian refugees who came to the U.S. after the 2010 earthquake. The TPS for Haitians was to expire on July 22.

Washington had granted Haitians TPS in 2010, less than two weeks after an earthquake that destroyed much of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, leaving 200,000 to 400,000 Haitians dead and tens of thousands of homes destroyed.

Granting TPS is a recognition by the U.S. that conditions in a particular country are so life-threatening that Washington won’t send people back to that country until those circumstances improve and people can live and work there. The TPS status usually lasts for 18 months; the declaration for Haitians has been repeatedly extended up to now.

The acting head of Citizenship and Immigration Services, James McCament, recommended to Secretary Kelly that the TPS should be removed for Haiti because “over all, circumstances in the country have continued on an upward trajectory since the 2010 earthquake.” (New York Times, April 30)

However, even the Times editorial recognized McCament’s statement as nonsense. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew devasted southwest Haiti, the country’s major food-producing area. It destroyed 175,000 homes, killed tens of thousands of livestock, washed out crops and flattened plantations, many of which take years to become productive.

In May, Hurricane Matthew hit, infecting troops of the U.N. military occupation force called Minustah introduced cholera into Haiti. At least 100,000 Haitians have died of this disease and hundreds of thousands have been sickened.

The government’s recommendation to lift TPS for Haitians coincides with that of the President, Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton’s actions had produced Haiti.

Nana Brantuo, policy manager for the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, told the Bay View National Black Newspaper on April 26: “Considering the current Haitian migrant crisis on the U.S.-Mexican border along with the trials — post Hurricane Matthew — that continue to impede the progress of Haiti’s national development, stripping 50,000 Haitian nationals of TPS status prioritizes them for removal and raises major concerns about the readiness of Haiti to handle such a large number of deportees.”

While conditions in Port-au-Prince might have recovered to the same deplorable level where they were before the earthquake, southwest Haiti is still reeling from Hurricane Matthew. Haiti remains in crisis, and should not have to cope with 50,000 additional deportees expelled from the U.S.

By Addison Gaddis

Brazilians workers held a general strike on April 28. Business as usual could not possibly continue; to 40 million people took the streets of Brazil to protest President Michel Temer’s austerity reforms. Temer took power in May of 2016 after the elected president, Dilma Rousseff, was impeached in a process that many say was illegitimate.

Temer is from the center-right Workers’ Party (PT), while Rousseff is from the center-left Democratic Movement Party of Brazil (PMDB) Before the Rousseff government collapsed, Temer is currently also embroiled in a massive corruption scandal. Nearly one-third of his ministerial circle is in a graft scandal. And while Rousseff’s government still at least paid lip service to being pro-worker and pro-working class, Temer, in contrast, constitute a direct attack upon the Brazilian working class.

The austerity measures include exten- sive layoffs, a doubling day and the working week, reduction of the required lunch break time, raising the minimum retire- ment age to 65, pension reductions, lower pay for outsourced workers and lowering the restrictions on outsourcing, and no longer requiring bosses to extend bene- fits to workers hired for 240 days or less. These policies aim to further destabilize the precariously and low-wage workforce of Brazil, and the workers, with good rea- son, are outraged.

The general strike shut down transit, airports, auto manufacturing plants, petroleum refineries and banks across the country. All over Brazil, in rural and urban areas, militants from the Land- less Workers Movement (MST) and the Homeless Workers Movement shut down highways. The streets were filled with drumming and chanting while the air- ports, with stopgaps and train terminals remained empty.

In the city of Río de Janeiro, demon- strators torched eight buses, facing po- lice repression in the form of tear gas and rubber bullets. A representative of the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL) was tear gas on at a rally at the Plaza Candelaria. In response, organizers called for a rally there on May Day to pro- test police repression.

In the city of São Paulo, nine MST demonstrators were arrested for blocking highways. An estimated 70,000 peo- ple took the streets. Demonstrators were blocked from marching on Michel Te- mer’s residence. In the city of Goiânia, an estimated 30,000 people took the streets, and a youth was hospitalized in a coma after he was battered in the head by a riot cop’s baton.

All across the country, the numbers are staggering: 150,000 in Belo Horizonte, 200,000 in Curitiba, 30,000 in Salvador, 50,000 in Fortaleza, 50,000 in Belem and so on. How was the working class able to mobilize so widely and effectively?

Unions, left parties united in action

There are many answers. One of all, there was a broad base of support. The strike was endorsed by the PT, the party that had previously held the presidency since 2002, as well as a diverse range of left parties, including the Socialist Party of Brazil (PSB), the Brazilian Commu- nist Party (PCB), the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), the Free Homeland Party (PPL), the United Socialist Work- ers’ Party (PSTU), the Democratic Labor Party (PDT), the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL), the Sustainability Network (REDD), the Green Party (PV) and appar- ently dissidents from PMDB.

Along with the involvement of po- litical parties, there was mass support from organizations advocating for youth, workers, women and Black people. Leon- ardo Steiner, the general secretary of the National Conference of Bishops in Brazil, expressed support for the strike, stating, “It is fundamental that we lis- ten to the population in their collective manifestations.”

And, perhaps most importantly, all the major unions of the country supported the strike as well: CGTB, Fora Sindical, UGT, Unified Workers Central, National Confederation of Tourism, the National Conference of Bishops, and the Solidarity Network.

The government and its lackeys unsur- prisingly derided the strike as ineffective. But this is a transparent lie. The strike was effective because the country was shut down. The strike serves as a power- ful reminder to the ruling class: without the workers, they have nothing! Fora Te- mer! Proletários do mundo, uni-vos! All power to the people! □

Gabriela celebrates
‘Ten years of serving the people’

Special to Workers World

New York City

The New York Chapter of Gabriela (General Assembly Binding Women for Reform, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action) — formerly known as Filipi- nas for Rights and Empowerment — held its 10th anniversary celebration on April 29 in Manhattan with talks, video, spoken word, music and dance. The event was decorated with beautiful banners and placards highlighting Gabriela cam- paigns since 2007.

The chapter’s women’s group, founded in the Philippines in 1984, has chapters all over the world, including in U.S. cit- ies from New York to Los Angeles. Its natal in honor of Gabriela Silang, a revolutionary Filipina leader who fought against Spain’s brutal colonial rule in the Philippines in the mid-1970s.

A keynote address was given by Mon- ica Moorehead, a co-coordinator of the International Working Women’s Day Co- alition in New York City, which was hon- ored with a Modern Day Gabriela Award, along with our organization.

Moorehead stated, “Wherever Gabriela has a presence, they never hesitate to ex- press solidarity with the struggles on a local and national level, be it Black Lives Matter, Standing Rock, Fight for $15 and, of course, the plight of migrants. Gabrie- la has a clear understanding of the global role of the class struggle inside the bel- 

International Women’s Day Co- alition members, April 29.
By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Even before International Workers’ Day — May Day — a very important advance in struggle has been made. The struggle was a result of the unity in action. Trade unions and movements ranging from students, environment, women, LGBTQ and other sectors were jointly promoting a National Strike on May 1.

Social organizations used all means at their disposal. There was radio and television, radio announcements, awareness-raising demonstrations and concerts in shopping malls and other open spaces, street theater, singing, and informative flyers, painting on walls and more. Groups of young people came to offices employing many people to inform them of the danger.

The general slogan was a call to the People: join the struggle! This May Day, Puerto Rico will not simply throw stones at the Wall, but will throw stones against our oppressors, this very life of the people, and those people have decided to fight back. They refuse to allow their lives and the future of generations to be more collateral in a commercial transaction.

What is the struggle? The Central Committee of the PPPA (Puerto Rican Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act), imposing an unneeded Fiscal Control Board (referred to as the "Junta") that automatically became the real, dictatorial government over Puerto Rico. The Junta has already implemented many measures outlined by the International Monetary Fund and contained in the 2015 Kruger Plan. Both the FCB/Junta and the Kru gers’ challenge the working class to interest in imposing austerity measures to ensure protection of an illegitimate and odious public debt of $74 billion.

The FCB counts on the unconditional collaboration of the current Puerto Rican government, under Gov. Ricardo Roselló, whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively Criminalizes protest.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.

Roselló is a colonial whose Partido Nuevo Progresista actively promotes statehood. Roselló is a colonial governor on his knees, submissive to the empire's demands. A toothless legislature promotes statehood.
Defend science and the environment

While some corporate-owned media predicted that climate marchers, especially those who had been on the march for Science one week earlier, the April 20 attacks drew crowds all across the United States. The date coincided with Trump’s 100th day in office. Numerous demands were made to keep and expand the many environmental protections he and his administration are bent on destroying.

Protesters Marched for Sedition

Organized by Philly with Standing Rock eNoDAPL, the march was followed by a panel discussion featuring anti-war mother Regina Brave and Charles Whalen, Lakota activists instrumental in stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline; Pam Africa of MOVE; Chrisra Rivers of WWP; and Ron Whyte of Deep Green Philly.

‘Communities will lead the change’

The climate change march in Portland, Ore., was 3,000 strong, led by people of color, those from communities that have been shaped by environmental racism and injustice.

Speakers addressed intersecting issues facing frontline communities. In the struggle for climate justice, these included housing, transportation, clean energy, access to green spaces and food, and the struggle for immigrant rights and the rights of other marginalized communities.

The crowd agreed that those facing environmental racism and injustice must be at the center of the struggle for climate action.

March organizers were OPAL. Environmental Justice Oregon and the Oregon Just Transition Alliance. The OPAL statement said: ‘Climate change is only a symptom of much deeper crises that are happening worldwide — the ecological crisis, economic crisis, and the crises of racism and colonialism.’

‘No wall! Love the Earth!’

Thousands gathered at the San Diego County administration building demanding the Trump administration take action on climate change. The People’s Climate March banner was raised in the front entrance as the crowd cheered. After a rally came a march beginning and ending at Waterfront Park.

People carried signs, drummed, danced and chanted ‘No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here!’ and ‘Money for jobs, not for war — Hands off Korea!’ It swelled during the day, drawing others who were against capitalism. Many marchers stopped to talk and take pictures next to the WWP banners.

One middle-aged African-American resident of D.C. told activists how her mother was a socialist until the day she died and took her daughter to many marches. A Young American man from Connecticut joined the contingent with a handmade sign reading “Stop capitalism — It is killing our planet.”

Opponents are poisoning the air. A methane pipeline would be running through the neighborhood. It’s a young African-American woman who was against capitalism taking back the last remaining lands of Indigenous peoples by using the courts and so-called “democratic” government to profit, no matter the cost to the people.

Colorado state government threatens to the wishes of the oil companies. They advertise how safe and controlled their operations are, yet huge amounts of methane are poisoning the air. A methane explosion on April 27 in Firestone, Colo., blew up a house, killing two people. Nothing remained of the structure, which was vaporized.

Anadarko Petroleum immediately closed down 3,000 wells, yet said there was no danger. In Philadelphia, hundreds of environmentalists, Standing Rock supporters and others concerned about global warming marched with banners and homemade signs. Mayor Kenney warned police, “You can’t stop the Earth! Love the Earth! All children deserve clean air!”

By Kris Balderas Hamel

Climate marchers say ‘Stop climate change, end capitalism!’

Workers World newspaper supported and Workers World Party members participated in both the Earth Day March for Science on April 22 and the Climate March a week later. We stood with those who fought Trump and his cohorts’ attempts to ruthlessly slash crucial scientific research, like the cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency that will only increase the devastating impacts of global warming.

We stand with those who fight Trump and his big-business backers.

Just one week later, more than 2,500,000 gathered in Washington, D.C., for the March for Science, enduring record 90-degree-plus temperatures. Gatherings at Capitol Hill, the protesters attacked “the evil president” in their chants.

As they passed the Trump hotel, they shouted “Shame!” and “We want to see you go, you morons!”

The day before the march, the Ross Trump forced the Environmental Protection Agency to take down its site devoted to the science of climate change. The Trump austerity budget is designed to strip billions of dollars of funding for a whole array of medical, climate and educational research.

By Kris Balderas Hamel

Workers World editorial

Workers and farmers, the science also means promoting the social science of Marxism. We cite here from Frederick Engels’ work “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” published first in 1880 — 127 years ago.

“Science is social and natural forces: blindly, forcibly, destructively, so long as we do not understand, and reckon with, them. But, when once we understand them, when once we grasp their action, their direction, their effects, it depends only upon ourselves to subject them more and more to our own will, and, by means of them, to reach our own ends. And this holds quite especially of the natural sciences. Respect of the laws of today, as long as we obstinately refuse to understand the nature and the character of these social means of action — and this understanding goes against the grain of the capitalist mode of production, and its defenders — so long these forces are at work in society, in opposition to us, so long they master us, as we have shown above in detail.

“But when once their nature is understood, they can, in the hands of the producers working together, be transformed from master demons into willing servants. The difference is as that between the destructive force of electricity in the lighting of the storm, and the energy under command in the telegraph and the voltcarr; the difference between a conflagration, and fire working in the service of humanity. With this recognition, at last, of the real nature of the productive forces of today, the social anomaly of production gives place to a social regulation of production upon a definite plan, according to the needs of the community and of each individual.”

The production of goods and services in today’s capitalist society is a cooperative endeavor of millions of people, created and enhanced by centuries of scientific, mathematical and technical research. But the capitalist social structure rules over this productive system “blindly, forcibly, destructively” in its march for more and more profit.

For Marx and Engels and all revolutionary socialists, then, math and science are tools for the workers and oppressed not only to overturn this rotten system, but also to reorganize production “upon a definite plan” that fulfills human needs.

Defend scientific freedom and the environment

Workers and farmers, the science also means promoting the social science of Marxism. We cite here from Frederick Engels’ work “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” published first in 1880 — 127 years ago.

“Science is social and natural forces: blindly, forcibly, destructively, so long as we do not understand, and reckon with, them. But, when once we understand them, when once we grasp their action, their direction, their effects, it depends only upon ourselves to subject them more and more to our own will, and, by means of them, to reach our own ends. And this holds quite especially of the natural sciences. Respect of the laws of today, as long as we obstinately refuse to understand the nature and the character of these social means of action — and this understanding goes against the grain of the capitalist mode of production, and its defenders — so long these forces are at work in society, in opposition to us, so long they master us, as we have shown above in detail.

“But when once their nature is understood, they can, in the hands of the producers working together, be transformed from master demons into willing servants. The difference is as that between the destructive force of electricity in the lighting of the storm, and the energy under command in the telegraph and the voltcarr; the difference between a conflagration, and fire working in the service of humanity. With this recognition, at last, of the real nature of the productive forces of today, the social anomaly of production gives place to a social regulation of production upon a definite plan, according to the needs of the community and of each individual.”

The production of goods and services in today’s capitalist society is a cooperative endeavor of millions of people, created and enhanced by centuries of scientific, mathematical and technical research. But the capitalist social structure rules over this productive system “blindly, forcibly, destructively” in its march for more and more profit.

For Marx and Engels and all revolutionary socialists, then, math and science are tools for the workers and oppressed not only to overturn this rotten system, but also to reorganize production “upon a definite plan” that fulfills human needs.

Workers and farmers, the science also means promoting the social science of Marxism. We cite here from Frederick Engels’ work “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” published first in 1880 — 127 years ago.

“Science is social and natural forces: blindly, forcibly, destructively, so long as we do not understand, and reckon with, them. But, when once we understand them, when once we grasp their action, their direction, their effects, it depends only upon ourselves to subject them more and more to our own will, and, by means of them, to reach our own ends. And this holds quite especially of the natural sciences. Respect of the laws of today, as long as we obstinately refuse to understand the nature and the character of these social means of action — and this understanding goes against the grain of the capitalist mode of production, and its defenders — so long these forces are at work in society, in opposition to us, so long they master us, as we have shown above in detail.

“But when once their nature is understood, they can, in the hands of the producers working together, be transformed from master demons into willing servants. The difference is as that between the destructive force of electricity in the lighting of the storm, and the energy under command in the telegraph and the voltcarr; the difference between a conflagration, and fire working in the service of humanity. With this recognition, at last, of the real nature of the productive forces of today, the social anomaly of production gives place to a social regulation of production upon a definite plan, according to the needs of the community and of each individual.”

The production of goods and services in today’s capitalist society is a cooperative endeavor of millions of people, created and enhanced by centuries of scientific, mathematical and technical research. But the capitalist social structure rules over this productive system “blindly, forcibly, destructively” in its march for more and more profit.

For Marx and Engels and all revolutionary socialists, then, math and science are tools for the workers and oppressed not only to overturn this rotten system, but also to reorganize production “upon a definite plan” that fulfills human needs.

Workers and farmers, the science also means promoting the social science of Marxism. We cite here from Frederick Engels’ work “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” published first in 1880 — 127 years ago.

“Science is social and natural forces: blindly, forcibly, destructively, so long as we do not understand, and reckon with, them. But, when once we understand them, when once we grasp their action, their direction, their effects, it depends only upon ourselves to subject them more and more to our own will, and, by means of them, to reach our own ends. And this holds quite especially of the natural sciences. Respect of the laws of today, as long as we obstinately refuse to understand the nature and the character of these social means of action — and this understanding goes against the grain of the capitalist mode of production, and its defenders — so long these forces are at work in society, in opposition to us, so long they master us, as we have shown above in detail.

“But when once their nature is understood, they can, in the hands of the producers working together, be transformed from master demons into willing servants. The difference is as that between the destructive force of electricity in the lighting of the storm, and the energy under command in the telegraph and the voltcarr; the difference between a conflagration, and fire working in the service of humanity. With this recognition, at last, of the real nature of the productive forces of today, the social anomaly of production gives place to a social regulation of production upon a definite plan, according to the needs of the community and of each individual.”

The production of goods and services in today’s capitalist society is a cooperative endeavor of millions of people, created and enhanced by centuries of scientific, mathematical and technical research. But the capitalist social structure rules over this productive system “blindly, forcibly, destructively” in its march for more and more profit.

For Marx and Engels and all revolutionary socialists, then, math and science are tools for the workers and oppressed not only to overturn this rotten system, but also to reorganize production “upon a definite plan” that fulfills human needs.
Continued from page 1

...from the poorer workers and farmers of Europe. Now, they come from all over the world, but mostly from Latin America.

Trump hate-mongering backfires

Certainly, none of this is lost on Donald Trump and his billionaire cronies, who use anti-immigrant venom as a wedge to bust up the fightback potential of today’s working class. He knows that immigrant workers are key to many struggles against blood-sucking bosses like himself, and he is using the power of the state to try to isolate them and sow terror and retreat in their ranks.

Instead, his vicious attacks on immigrants and so many others have aroused whole layers of the population. Since the election, and especially since Trump’s inauguration, literally millions have come out into the streets to defy his hate-mongering efforts to turn back the clock.

This May Day reflected all that. The marches and rallies resonated to a wide range of issues confronting workers, students, the unemployed, the homeless, people of color, women, LGBTQ people and those dismayed by environmental destruction, endless imperialist wars abroad and the militarization of oppressed schools and communities.

As a hand-lettered placard carried in one of the huge women’s marches in January said: “Yuck! Too many issues to fit on this sign.” May Day covered them all. It was also the place to raise all these monumental issues within the context of building the broadest united front of resistance based in the working class and led by the most oppressed.

International Workers’ Day has always been aimed against capitalism and the tiny fraction of the population that now controls half the wealth in the world. That May Day is finally being embraced once again by workers in the U.S., especially by the young who will shape our future, is bringing comfort and hope to our sisters and brothers on every continent.

Reports of many May Day marches will appear in the next WW.
Un día antes del Día de las y los Trabajadores —el Primer de Mayo— en Puerto Rico ya se ha logrado un avance importante en la lucha de los jóvenes que luchan por el cambio. Los sindicatos, y toda una gama de movimientos estudiantiles, ambientales, de mujeres, LGBT, y otros sectores, han estado activamente movilizando el Paro Nacional del 1 de mayo.

Han usado todos los medios a su alcance: red sociales, anuncios por la radio, manifestaciones de adhesión en los centros comerciales, teatro callejero, conciertos de concienciación, pegatinas, distribución de volantes informativos, pintadas en paredes, etc. Grupos de jóvenes acuden a oficinas donde hay reuniones de directivos, pintan murales, representan un retranco, y la lucha de derechos adquiridos, como el de las ocho horas, uno de los logros que se comentarán el Primer de Mayo. Tras una serie de estas iniciativas, se reforma de despido, disminución del bono de vacaciones y enfermedad, menos tiempo de servicio, condicionamientos técnicos y otros beneficios y derechos.

Luego aprobada la ley 8 del Empleador Único que afecta al sector público. Esta establece al gobierno como empleador único. Facilita la flexibilidad del gobierno para mover a las/os trabajadores de una agencia a otra, que podrían ser incluso hacia el sector privado. Las/os trabajadores mudan perjudicarían la protección que tienen bajo los convenios colectivos, además del tiempo acumulado, que deben ser retenidos. Y también el tiempo dedicado al servicio partidario para destruir a Puerto Rico.

El gobierno – y la JCF - se ha negado eliminar los grandes proyectos de austeridad, a pesar de los avances que han hecho en el plan de austeridad. Es un plan de austeridad que aseguren el costo de vida del pueblo, a la vez que de ley que aumentan significativamente el costo de la vida. Es una ley que afecta a trabajadores/es en el sector privado, representa un retroceso y la pérdida de derechos adquiridos, como el de las ocho horas, uno de los logros que se comentarán el Primer de Mayo. Tras una serie de estas iniciativas, se reforma de despido, disminución del bono de vacaciones y enfermedad, menos tiempo de servicio, condicionamientos técnicos y otros beneficios y derechos.

Por ello, la lucha es crucial. La lucha es una tormenta de ataques a todos los niveles contra la clase trabajadora. Podría resumirse como la lucha contra el intento de gran capital de destruir el arquitecto de Parque Puerto Rico y reconstruirlo para su beneficio.

Desde que el Congreso de EUA pasó la ley PROMESA (Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act) el pasado año imponiendo una Junta de Fiscal Independiente (JCF) que ha votado violentamente en el automóvil en el Real gobierno – y la JCF - se ha negado eliminar los grandes proyectos de austeridad, a pesar de los avances que han hecho en el plan de austeridad. Es un plan de austeridad que aseguren el costo de vida del pueblo, a la vez que de ley que aumentan significativamente el costo de la vida. Es una ley que afecta a trabajadores/es en el sector privado, representa un retroceso y la pérdida de derechos adquiridos, como el de las ocho horas, uno de los logros que se comentarán el Primer de Mayo. Tras una serie de estas iniciativas, se reforma de despido, disminución del bono de vacaciones y enfermedad, menos tiempo de servicio, condicionamientos técnicos y otros beneficios y derechos.

La pregunta queda del por qué ahora de estos ataques para destruir a Puerto Rico. Como colonia, PR ha servido los intereses del imperialismo estadounidense. Desde la situación geográfica de Puerto Rico para los intereses militares de EUA, como enorme planta de cultivo de estupefacientes, se incentivó la residencia de millones de personas. Después, en lugar de ser un centro de gran capital, Puerto Rico no será uno de celebrar la victoria de la victoria, sino el último episodio de un ciclo de destrucción del país. Entonces, bien públicos rentables están siendo llevados a la bancarrota para luego venderse “a precios de quemažón”.

Huelga estudiantil

Así lo entiende el estudiantado y la facultad de la UPR. Por eso desde el 28 de marzo, el Recinto de Puerto Río – el corazón de la JCF – ha sido un centro de huelga, ahora indefinida. Han celebrado asambleas democráticas donde han participado hasta 10.000 estudiantes. Otros recintos, como el 8 de la UPR, han sido la constante movilización que ha captado el apoyo del sindicato de profesoras/profesores de la misma UPR y otras empresas y de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR).

Pero, si están en huelga por la educación pública, su lucha es la huelga por el pueblo. En contra de la JCF y las destrucciones propuestas por el gobierno. La huelga es una lucha por el pueblo, para el pueblo. En contra de la JCF y las destrucciones propuestas por el gobierno. La huelga es una lucha por el pueblo, para el pueblo. En contra de la JCF y las destrucciones propuestas por el gobierno. La huelga es una lucha por el pueblo, para el pueblo.