Indigenous youth lead massive Montreal Climate Strike, Sept. 27.

declared “Capitalism created climate crisis” and “Fossil
sold politicians as responsible. In the U.S., some signs
economy, corporate profit-making, and bought-and-
tion. (globalclimatestrike.net)
to defend the planet against exploitation and destruc-
was the largest turnout ever of people determined
endorsing and marching. The Sept. 20-27 global mobili-
it included 1,200 international unions, and more than 800 organizations
actions in 185 countries, along with over 70 national and
world. According to organizers.
the climate crisis, in the largest strike in the city’s his-
500,000 people marched on Sept. 27 in an effort to halt

Many marchers emphatically indicted the capitalist
economy, corporate profit-making, and bought-and-
sold politicians as responsible. In the U.S., some signs
declared “Capitalism created climate crisis” and “Fossil
fools.” Slogans in England pointed out “Disaster capi-
talism = climate apocalypse” and called for “System
change, not climate change.” In Scotland, angry signs
proclaimed: “The rich get richer, the planet gets poorer”
and “Save the bees or I’ll break your knees!”

The leadership of Indigenous peoples in protecting
the Earth and its beings was highlighted in Montreal,
where Indigenous youth led the march. Rosalie LaBilliois
(Mi’kmaw), co-chair of the Assembly of First Nations
Youth Council, said: “We must ensure that our
lands, waters, non-human beings, medicines and sacred
sites are protected now and for the seven generations to
come.” (turtleislandnews.com)

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde, AFN Yukon
Regional Chief Khano Adamek and other leaders, includ-
ing Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg,
marched with the Indigenous youth. Autumn Peltier
(Wikwemikong), who marked her 15th birthday at the
march, was recently nominated for the International
Children’s Peace Prize for her work as Anishinabek
Nation Chief Water Commissioner.

Indigenous peoples in close relationship with the Earth
have led in protection of the environment for millennia
before the “green movements” of the 20th century. The
intensified exploitation of the planet in the last century
has seen heightened measures led by Indigenous people.
The Sacred Stone camp created in 2016 to block the
pathway of the Dakota Access Pipeline became an inter-
national rallying site for environmental activists.

Indigenous environmental activists in Central and
South America have been battling settler and corporate
seizure and exploitation of their lands for centuries, long
before the Amazon began burning.

Many activists have lost their lives in that struggle,
including Berta Cáceres of Honduras, winner of the

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Global climate strikes

Earth crisis arouses millions

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

In Montreal, Quebec province, Canada, more than
500,000 people marched on Sept. 27 in an effort to halt
the climate crisis, in the largest strike in the city’s his-
tory, according to organizers.

This and other Global Climate Strike events ended a
week later, when 7.5 million people participated in 6,135
actions in 185 countries, along with over 70 national and
international unions, and more than 800 organizations
endorsing and marching. The Sept. 20-27 global mobilizi-
ation was the largest turnout ever of people determined
to defend the planet against exploitation and destruc-
tion. (globalclimatestrike.net)

Many marchers emphatically indicated the capitalist
economy, corporate profit-making, and bought-and-
sold politicians as responsible. In the U.S., some signs
declared “Capitalism created climate crisis” and “Fossil

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Bigot Trump’s real crimes

Let us count the crimes the current U.S.
president has committed against the work-
ing class and all the oppressed masses.
His campaign vil-
fied Mexicans and other
Central American migrants
and refugees, calling them
gangsters and rapists. In office, he shut
down legal asylum, jailing migrants and
separating parents from children, and
restricted entry for Muslims.

All his life, Trump wore his misogyny
openly, boasting of groping women. In
office he appointed misogynist judges
to federal courts and even the Supreme Court.
Long before he ran for office, Donald
Trump waged a racist campaign against
the Central Park 5. Black and Latinx
youths railroaded to jail on false accusa-
tions of raping a jogger, who were finally
exonerated. In office, he
called against “s—–hole
countries,” all of which
were countries in Africa or
inhabited by people of African descent.

Among other things, this president has
insulted people with disabilities for their
disability, has tried to bar trans people
from the military, and with all the above
has committed grave crimes against the
working and oppressed masses.

Yet the charges that the Democratic
Party and various ruling-class sectors

Continued on page 10

Racism — then and now

Justice for Anthony Hill
Legacy of Sugar Land 95

Workers won’t back down

GM strike in third week
SEIU 32BJ vs Philly bosses

Climate crisis & the working class

Title X and abortion rights

Editorial

Biden & Ukraine

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigender and multigenerational group of people who are not only the victims of imperialism, but have been an active participant in the escalation of imperialist wars, decades of human rights violations in Palestine and the underdevelopment of the global South (countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean) for the benefit of Western financial capital.

Many of the activists in attendance also pointed out that U.S. hegemony is one of the planet’s leading polluters, emitting more greenhouse gases from its military operations than many industrialized nations. U.S. wars pose an imminent threat to civilians in targeted countries, but they also pose a existential threat to the entire biosphere, as the planet careens closer and closer to climate catastrophe.

The demonstration coincided with the U.S.’s increasing hostility against Venezuela, China and Iran. Failing from one target to next in a futile attempt to shore up its deteriorating legitimacy, the U.S. policy of “maximum pressure” can be more accurately described as “maximum belligerency.”

The demonstration was scheduled to coincide with the opening of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

First, there was the attempt to topple the Venezuelan government and replace the democratically elected leadership with a U.S. puppet. Then, the U.S. sought to fabricate an international incident in the Strait of Hormuz as a pretext for war with Iran.

Now the U.S. has targeted the Chinese economy through an escalating trade war. And through all these hostile—though half-baked—stratagems, the U.S. has wielded deadly sanctions like a cudgel against any government that challenges its hegemony.

During the rally and march from Herald Square, organizers raised all these issues and ended their demonstration in front of the U.N. The challenge offered was clear: “Stop the wars, save the planet.” The leadership at the United Nations has shown that they lack the vision and courage to take actions necessary to ensure the survival of the species—but the people do. With each new generation, popular outrage against imperialist warmongering grows. Only the power of the masses can stop the U.S. war machine. And that power is growing every day.

Motema spoke at the rally on behalf of Workers World Party.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Legacy of the Sugar Land 95

By Mirinda Crissman
Houston

The Sugar Land 95 are the 95 unnamed African-American people buried in unmarked graves in the city of that name, 30 miles south of Houston. The people were buried on property sold to the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) by the Texas prison system. The graves were unearthed during the summer of 2018 as construction workers were building a school. (See Sugar Land: A Crime Against Humanity,” WW, Sept. 10, 2018.)

On Sept. 23, the Houston Chapter of the National Black United Front, along with community members, activists, scholars and allies gathered at Fort Bend’s school board meeting to call attention to the ongoing, unjust treatment of the Sugar Land 95. The NBUF has been involved in the struggle to bring justice to the Sugar Land 95 since 2005.

Around the time of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Sugar Land and surrounding areas were called “The Hell Hole on the Brazos” due to the inhumane conditions for enslaved Black people working on plantations. After Emancipation, convict leasing was put in place, a system designed to keep freed Black people in “legal” slavery. This was sanctioned through a clause that still exists in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Under this system, the Texas Department of Corrections hired out prisoners—who were often Black and arrested by law enforcement for very little or no reason—to plantation owners as laborers. Convict leasing could be even worse than slavery because those exploiting the labor of the leased people had no economic stake whatever in their well-being, even in keeping them alive.

According to historian Robert Perkinson in “Texas Tough: The Rise of America’s Prison Empire,” more than 3,500 leased prisoners died in Texas between 1866 and 1912. Perkinson calculated there were more deaths under convict leasing than in lynching in that period.

Artist and historian Reginald Moore found a report in 2001 that FBISD planned to build a new school at the location where there had been a convict camp. As early as 2003, Moore began warning FBISD there were bodies at that site, likely those of prisoners forced into virtual slave labor.

The FBISD persisted despite many warnings. When construction began on the James Reese Career and Technical Center, the bodies were discovered and unearthed. Now the remains of the 95 are still in cardboard boxes at the construction site, according to FBISD attorney Robert Seaward.

Demanding respect for enslaved laborers who died to death

At the school board meeting, Kofi Taharka of the NBUF listed the ways the school board had failed to do right by the 95 — before being escorted out by police for going over his allotted three minutes of speaking time.

Taharka stated: “We come before you not to appeal to your moral, political or legal conscience. For you have proven through your actions, relative to the Sugar Land 95, that you have none.”

He went on to list in which FBISD had failed: not listening to Reginald Moore’s warnings, not conducting proper surveys before construction, fighting legal oversight and failing to enlist culturally competent help. He noted FBISD had disparaged the communal descendants of the dead with an endless compounding of by including them only in surface discussions without allowing real input. Before being “escorted” out, Taharka called on Superintendent Charles Dupre to resign.

Taharka and several other speakers called on FBISD to test the bodies for DNA to link them to their descendants before the reinterment process. Community activists Swatara Olushola said, “For a district to feel comfortable with making end-all-be-all decisions regarding these victims of crimes against humanity without the community, without their families, without their names, against the wishes of the court, is disgusting to me. You should be ashamed of yourselves.”

Another speaker, Salvador Herrera, began: “I’m actually here about [conditions at] James Reese Career and Technical Center, not about the Sugar Land 95, though I stand in solidarity with their effort.” He went on to bring to light FBISD’s outrageous wage violations. Workers building the technical center had proof of wage theft and brought that to the Design and Construction Division, which is in charge of constructing buildings on city property. The workers were told they had “insufficient evidence.” Herrera called out FBISD for their unjust practices and asked how they would go about doing right by the construction workers in the future.

FBISD has continually and incorrectly insisted their intentions and actions are grounded in seeking dignity and respect for the 95. The school district’s track record speaks otherwise. Reginald Moore reminded everyone at the meeting: “(The Sugar Land 95 are) being treated today in death the way they were treated when they were alive.”

Despite all that was brought up in the heated exchange, FBISD voted to pay the funeral home $284,375 to re-inter the 95 bodies without any DNA testing or input from descendants. But the fight to do right by the Sugar Land 95 is far from over.

Fight the power! Build Workers’ World!

As a newspaper that promotes revolutionary socialism, it’s essential to welcome change—especially long overdue change. Like throwing Christopher Columbus into the dustbin of world history with other false idols of colonialism and imperialism.

A movement has been afoot for several decades to eliminate Columbus Day, the 307-year-old celebration marking the arrival of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus on Oct. 12, 1492, and replace it with Indigenous Peoples’ Day, which recognizes the contributions of native peoples and peoples who have made across this country.

If you agree that it’s essential for Workers’ World to take this step with importance of change this month, then it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program, which since 1977 has helped put out the paper. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends for a donation of a minimum of $75 or $100 or $300 (only $25 a month). Workers World appreciates your generosity! 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. Know we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World—for today and for the future!

Killed cop on trial
Justice for Anthony Hill!

By Dianne Mathiwetz
Atlanta

On March 9, 2015, promising musician and singer Anthony Hill was killed by DeKalb County Deputy Robert Olsen in the parking lot of Hill’s Chambles apartment complex. Hill, 27, an African-American veteran of the Afghanistan war, had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and PTSD as a result of his military experiences. When the drugs prescribed by the Veterans Administration caused his jaw to lock, along with other debilitating effects, he had stopped taking them. (tinyurl.com/yzhhbvbg)

That night, Hill and his fiancee, Bridget Anderson, had plans to celebrate their anniversary. But in the early afternoon, Hill showed up at the apartment complex leasing office, wearing only short and no shoes, knocking on the door asking for help.

The office staff, accustomed to a polite, well-mannered tenant, were concerned about his erratic behavior and unusual posture. They then called 911 seeking help for him. Two maintenance workers responded to his pleas that he didn’t know where he lived and took him back to his apartment.

Within a short time, Hill emerged from his second floor balcony naked and proceeded to climb down and wander around the grounds, sometimes crawling in a military style, peering around as if in a battle zone. Again, the two workers approached him, urging Hill to go home before the police came. To which Hill responded: “That’s OK. The police are my friends.”

That is when Olsen, who is white, showed up in his patrol car, and Hill, who became agitated, raised, moved at an uneven pace toward him.

Deputy Olsen got out of his car and drew his gun, and, as Hill came closer, yelled for him to stop and fired two bullets into Hill’s body. Anthony Hill died at the scene.

Olsen maintains he feared for his life and was forced to shoot the unarmed man. It has taken four-and-a-half years for a jury to hear this testimony, following an indictment of Olsen on multiple charges, including two counts of felony murder and violation of the oath of office.

The jury of 12 DeKalb County residents, seven women and five men who reflect the diverse composition of the metro Atlanta county, was seated Sept. 26, and the trial of Robert Olsen finally began.

Each witness, whether the leasing office staff or the maintenance workers, affirmed that Anthony Hill did not in any way threaten or frighten them and that they called 911 to get him help.

The long-awaited trial is expected to last another week or more.

A guilty verdict on the murder charges would be unprecedented in Georgia where almost no police, regardless of the evidence, are ever punished for killing a civilian. WW will continue to report on the trial of Robert Olsen. Justice for Anthony Hill! ☒
GM strike and the global working class

By Martha Grevatt
Lordstown, Ohio

September 29 marked two weeks on the picket line for nearly 50,000 General Motors workers. This was the second “Solidarity Sunday,” with supporters joining picket lines around the country. Rain did not stop non-GM UAW members and union staff from joining the lines outside plants in metro Detroit.

Outside the Lordstown plant, assembly plant, helped us through this whole period, there was no sign that workers would go back to work without a decent contract. They want their plant—and three other plants GM has closed or plans to close—kept open with a product that will assure job security into the future. They want to protect health care benefits without the steep increases in worker costs GM is demanding.

Strikers want raises that keep up with inflation. Perhaps most importantly, they want to see wage and benefit parity, which means eliminating tiers and giving “temporary” workers permanent status. But GM wants to up the percentage of contingent workers, who are paid less, have bare-bones benefits, work flexible schedules (from the company’s standpoint), cannot accrue seniority and can be fired with little recourse.

Making even less money are janitors and others who work in the plants but are employed by Aramark, Caravan Knight and other third parties. Aramark workers at five GM plants are also on strike.

Signs reading “Everyone tier one— Solidarity forever” and “Temps lives matter” are now carried alongside the generic “UAW on strike” signs the union provided. Hip-hop videos from the picket lines, with lyrics addressing the mistreatment of temps, are going viral.

The rank and file is fed up, and everyone is striking for the betterment of the lowest paid.

Distractions, intimidation fail to break resolve

The federal government, along with GM bosses, may have hoped to distract strikers with the corruption scandal involving UAW leaders, who allowed concessions in the past. But plant workers know their primary battle is with the company. Not trusting Washington’s efforts, especially under the anti-labor Trump administration, which recently appointed right-winger Eugene Scalia as Secretary of Labor, their attitude toward the b.removeItem and misappropriation of funds is “Let us clean up our own house.” Strikers were not intimidated when GM abruptly canceled their health insurance when the walkout was barely underway. This created serious hardships during the process of switching to union-paid insurance. The suspension of benefits blew open up into a public relations disaster for GM and CEO Mary Barra, who were seen as heartless.

On Sept. 25 GM informed the union that company-paid coverage would resume. Whether this would only be until the end of September or indefinitely while negotiations continue is still unclear.

This about-face led to some speculation that a tentative agreement might be imminent. But until then solidarity on the lines remains strong.

Global strike, global solidarity

On Sept. 9, over 100,000 South Korean autoworkers waged a three-day strike at all of the country’s GM plants, following that with partial strikes at selected plants. The strike is continuing, with primary demands for higher wages and permanent status for temporary workers.

The Korean Metal Workers Union, which represents GM workers, sent a letter of support to the UAW. In Mexico, five GM workers were fired after refusing productivity. They did so in solidarity with strikers here, realizing that raising production in their plant would be used to offset U.S. production losses due to the strike.

GM workers and their unions in Brazil, Canada and elsewhere have also sent solidarity messages. What’s needed is for the UAW to reciprocate and support striking autoworkers worldwide. That will really give GM bosses and the shareholders on Wall Street something to worry about.

What is ‘two-tier’ and where did it come from?

There was a time when “concessions” referred to contract gains that labor wrestled from management— sometimes after long strikes. The United Auto Workers contracts with Ford, General Motors and Chrysler (now FCA) once set the bar for what workers across the country, even non-unionized workers, could expect in terms of pay and benefits. The UAW led the way in winning employer-paid health insurance, which many workers still take for granted.

Now concession bargaining means the opposite—unions giving up hard-fought improvements to supposedly keep a company solvent, competitive and/or profitable (or to cut costs in the public sector and at “non-prof-

During the first federal bailout of Chrysler in 1979, the UAW took big pay cuts, gave up paid time off and made other givebacks to “save” the company. Labor’s backward slide accelerated after the 1981 air traffic controllers strike was broken. The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization struck over a range of issues, primarily working conditions. President Ronald Reagan fired everyone who refused to return to work.

The breaking of PATCO put labor on the defensive and givebacks became commonplace. Two-tier language began to appear in contracts, starting with the airline and grocery unions. Future workers hired after a certain date—the second tier—were locked into a lower pay scale. Workers made different wages while doing the same work side-by-side; two-tier made for a divided union membership.

The pitch made then to the rank and file by class-collaborationist union bureaucrats was along the lines of “It won’t hurt your paycheck.” Now two-tier language, in UAW contracts with the Detroit Three since 2007, has been replaced by multi-tier language. The temporary workers employed by the Detroit Three, now about 7 to 10 percent of the workforce, are a third tier.

— Martha Grevatt

SEIU 32BJ members #BuildingJustice

Thousands of Service Employees union (SEIU) 32BJ members held a spirited march and rally through Center City Philadelphia for #BuildingJustice on Sept. 26. Three SEIU 32BJ members #BuildingJustice

Big pharma + big money = no blame

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

This commentary was originally posted on prisonradio.org on Sept. 15.

In recent days, we’ve heard of proposed settlements in civil suits involving big pharmaceutical companies, the very sources of opioid products (like OxyContin®), for example that have left tens of thousands of people griped in the hold of addiction.

Consider this simple fact: In one year, more Americans have died from corporate opioid products than the number of Americans who died in Vietnam, after 10 years of war!

For retail sellers of drugs, decades in prison await; for wholesale drug merchants, civil suits are the states’ responses.

Since when is the killing of thousands of people a civil tort?

When we witness the parameters of the drug war, we see it had nothing to do with drugs—and everything to do with state repression of the People, those from the ghettos and barrios of America.
Brown Berets march against white supremacy

By Gloria Rubac

Houston

The Brown Berets held a National Day of Action across the country on Sept. 28. Events were held from Fresno and Sacramento in California to Chicago, Oklahoma City, Houston and El Paso.

The focus was on white supremacy and solidarity with the families who lost loved ones in the racist killings in El Paso.

In each city the seven key points of unity agreed to last summer by La Mesa National Assembly of the Brown Berets were read aloud. (See end of article.)

Here in Houston, as the march passed stores and gas stations, chants rang out of “Viva la Raza!” and “Viva Zapata!” People on the streets responded with raised fists: “Que viva!”

Cynthia Rivera read: “Brown Berets, leftist allies and members of our communities have had enough. ... We must unite! The Indigenous people of this land, regardless of what the United States labels us, must come together and fight for our children who today sit in cages. We must fight for our families who today are being ripped apart, fight for our children who today are being shot, not just by white supremacists but by police officers.”

Moving testimony was given by Janie Torres, the younger sister of Jose Campos Torres, who was beaten senseless by Houston cops in 1976 on Cinco de Mayo and thrown into a bayou to die. “Let’s see if the v-t-b-k can swim,” the cops said.

Revolutionary poetry by Torres’ nephew, Johnny Torres, was warmly welcomed. One poem was based on the Mexican legend of La Llorona, a mother who out of desperation drowned her child in the crossfire of this war. Our mothers never sleep, they still roam the night, looking for their missing children. “They can’t fight this war alone. The president terrorist damaged all the mothers’ hearts with one stone. Some people don’t ask about the lost children, but La Llorona does.”

In NYC, movement declares:

In NYC activists welcome Bolivarian leader

Jorge Arreaza, minister of foreign affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, was greeted with cheers and applause on Sept. 26 as he entered Holyrood Episcopal Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan.

Arreaza spoke at the invitation of the church’s Ministry of Solidarity with the People. The occasion was a welcoming meeting in solidarity with the Venezuelan delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

The event was organized by a broad coalition of anti-war and anti-imperialist organizations to show support for Venezuela as it faces deadly U.S. sanctions and the threat of military intervention. Arreaza described the history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the coup it has backed.

The United States is now trying to get other countries to invade Venezuela after the recent activation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), also known as the Rio Treaty, by the Organization of American States. A 1947 agreement among many countries of the Americas, including the U.S., the treaty states that an attack against one member is to be considered an attack against all. But it is the U.S. that is attacking Venezuela! Venezuela hasn’t attacked any nation.

Arreaza said other belligerent actions of the U.S. government, along with invoking the TIAR treaty to go after Venezuela, are causing the people of Venezuela to appeal to the people of the U.S. to “stop the war against Venezuela, stop the war against Iran.”

He noted that Venezuela is a country full of many riches, including gold, petroleum and other minerals. While it has been oppressed by Britain, Spain and the U.S., “We are going to be completely independent,” Arreaza affirmed.

He noted that Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Venezuela are resisting U.S. economic war, defending their sovereignty and the freedom of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Gail Walker of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, who chaired the meeting, said the Bolivarian Republic is now under the same kind of attack that Cuba has faced. “As we have stood in solidarity with Cuba, we have stood in solidarity with Venezuela,” she stated to applause.

Father Luis Barrios, pastor of Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz, gave a warm welcome to the crowd, declaring “La lucha sigue” — the struggle continues.

Roger Wareham of the December 26 Movement, who introduced Arreaza, connected the situation in Venezuela to that in Zimbabwe and other countries facing U.S. sanctions.

 continuo
Climate justice system change

The following is a slightly edited talk given by WW editor Deirdre Griswold at a Sept. 28 forum titled “The Climate Crisis, A Marxist View,” organized by the Boston branch of Workers World Party.

As you all know by now, a 16-year-old named Greta Thunberg recently crossed the Atlantic by herself on a solar-powered sailboat to dramatize the need to end the world’s dependence on fossil fuels. Her anger helped inspire millions of other young people, who marched all over the world last weekend demanding action to turn back the climate crisis.

This is a global movement, because climate change is global. And it can affect people of all classes. But certainly not to the same extent. The poorest people face dying just for lack of water. They have to endure factory or field work in 115-degree heat with no shade or air conditioning. If they survive one of the terrible storms that are the new normal, like the ones that have devastated Puerto Rico and part of the Bahamas, they see their flimsy homes blown away.

But the better off can jet away from horrible weather, moving from one mansion to another.

Anger has grown around the world, especially toward the United States government and corporations, which have historically contributed by far the most to global warming and have done little to change.

This newly invigorated movement of young people versus climate disaster is very vocal and inspiring. They are the ones we will live long enough to experience this ominous future. But they are up against a system that will put them on the head and sing their praises while killing them in the back.

So they must be prepared not only for the effects of climate change, but for the huge political and economic struggle that is needed to turn things around.

How imperialists opened up the world

Let’s go back in history several decades to the period of the early 1990s. It’s not too long ago, but it’s at least a decade before today’s fighters for climate justice were even born. That’s why scientists first began alerting the world to the dangers of climate change.

And it’s also when the promoters of capitalism used their powerful media to trumpet the victory of their system over the part of the socialist bloc led by the Soviet Union. They were predicting that the end of the Cold War would usher in a period of great world stability and prosperity, led by the self-proclaimed “democratic” capitalist countries of the West.

But they were saying that, with the downfall of the USSR and Eastern Europe, then China, socialist North Korea and Cuba would be next.

At the same time, they were pooh-poohing what climate scientists were telling them about global warming. The propagandists for capitalism were triumphantly declaring the beginning of a new era of “freedom.” But what really meant was the freedom of the giant corporations to go almost anywhere and exploit the natural resources and the workers of the world.

The imperialist countries, the U.S. foremost among them, then proceeded to “open up” whole areas of the world, like prying open an oyster, to be devoured in one gulp.

And where there was resistance to being “opened up,” the imperialists invented excuses for unending wars, military occupations and so-called “police actions” for control of areas rich in carbon resources like oil and gas, particularly in Southwest Asia and Northern Africa. Think of the wars and attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen — most of which continue to this day.

All this has taken a terrible toll on the planet, but it seldom gets mentioned, especially toward the United States government and state power in order to guarantee that nothing interferes with their private profit. They see with alarm these changes in mass consciousness. Their response? They undermine anything that would hurt their profits. But at the same time many give lip service to going green.

How many polluting energy companies have added some green or a cute bug or flower to their logos? How many expensive ads have they taken out putting themselves on the back for doing so little?

And then there is the billionaire president of the United States, Donald Trump, who promotes climate denial and has packed his cabinet with the worst polluters. That’s what he should be impeached for!! That and his racism, sexism, bigotry and greed.

Of course, he’s an easy target for the progressive movement. But once he’s gone — and he will be gone eventually — the class of billionaires who put him there will still control the economy and the government.

That is, until there’s a huge working-class upsurge, bigger than anything we’ve ever seen in this country. And it’s coming.

What can we do to help develop this upsurge?

Class unity and social change

We are revolutionaries. We are for the overthrow of this capitalist system, root and branch, and the establishment of a new, socialist order where the working class holds the power and makes the decisions about the economy.

We know that one of the biggest tasks in preparing for any revolutionary move- ment among the workers is to overcome the divisions that demagogues like Trump use to divide the working class. Every issue he harps on — whether it’s blaming immigrants for the broken-down system of social welfare, or attacking people of

Deirdre Griswold

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

Boston climate protest, Sept. 20.
Global Climate Strike march, New York City, Sept. 20.

Global and the working class

color while defending racist, fascist ele-
ments like the neo-Nazis — everything is aimed at keeping our class from uniting and fighting bullies like him.

Why does he focus his anger so much on im/migrants? We should never forget that the workers working mainly in Latinx, who revived the fighting spirit of May Day back in 2006, when a million demonstrands instead of going to work that day. Why is the profit of the bosses. Immigrants have been organizing low-wage workers all over this coun-
try, showing what real unions can do. Treating them like immigrants for their problems, instead of uniting with immigrants to fight their real enem-
ies.

By the way, many of the migrants seek-
ing asylum in the U.S. and in Europe are doing so because their home countries have been devastated by imperial wars, by right-wing repressive governments put in power by the imperialists — and by cli-
mate change, which is already making vast areas of the world uninhabitable, from Central America to central Africa.

And when Trump isn’t blaming China for the climate crisis, he’s blaming the environmental movement for the layoffs of coal miners and other workers in pol-
luting industries. We can’t let Trump and his ilk make a show of bonding with coal min-
ers who are losing their jobs. We have to demand that any program for cleaning up the environment must include a guar-
ante of jobs and retraining for any work-
ers who are displaced.

We also need to point out that the coal companies which have pulled out of Appalachia and left mining fami-
lies struggling to survive didn’t just fold their businesses. They started laying off thousands of coal miners when they dis-
covered that mountaintop removal was cheaper and required less human labor than underground mining. And many of these U.S. coal companies also moved their operations to Australia and other countries where they could rake in even bigger profits.

The environmental movement has in the past been regarded as mainly a mid-
dle-class movement, not a working-class movement. But remember that when Trump claim to be friends of workers who could lose their jobs in a green economy.

But the voracious coming from this boss who became famous on television for fir-
ing people. But we have to remember this very important fact: Many workers in this country are having a really rough time. Even as the costs of housing and educa-
tion and health care have soared, and the incomes of the super-rich have hit the stratosphere, real wages for workers have declined and many newer jobs are just part-time and extremely precarious gigs.

So the first consideration for many workers is: Will I have a job? How can I think about what might happen to the planet tomorrow when I have to think about paying today? And about putting food on the table today.

Make the bosses pay, not the workers!

In the climate justice movement, we have to struggle for solutions that don’t put the financial burden on the work-
ing class. Can we bring a carbon tax, for example? It’s the billionaires who got us into this mess. They must pay, not the workers.

But the problem has now become so huge that these so-called “solutions” to the climate crisis are totally inadequate, less than a bandaid on a gaping wound. And that’s why, in recent years, slogans for “System change, not climate change” and that signs that denounce capitalism have become increasingly popular, especially with young people.

Is it so difficult to guarantee coal min-
ers that they will get help finding other jobs, and thereby win them over to the need to shut down the coal mines? China didn’t think so. It did close down most of its coal mines, and it did help the miners resettle and be retrained for new jobs. So let’s talk about China and what it has been able to accomplish in greening the environment.

But first, let’s dispel some of the lies about China’s record on combating cli-
mate change.

We hear again and again that China is the world’s worst polluter. What’s completely left out of the equation is that China is the world’s most populous country. When you look at greenhouse gas emissions per person, China drops to number 16 in the world, not number one.

What are the top polluting countries? China is number 16. The U.S. is number 7. That’s a very small population, Australia and the U.S., which continues to contribute the lion’s share of global emissions per capita.

But there’s another huge factor that must be considered in order to evaluate what China has to do to be sustainable. China is now the world’s largest exporter of manufactured goods. U.S. corporations have moved a lot of their factory produc-
tion to China and other countries where wages are lower. That is the main reason that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as a whole are now slightly below China’s. But per capita, the U.S. emissions are still almost four times those of China.

Reducing emissions requires the abil-
ity to plan and control production, which China can do, and a capitalist country like the U.S. just can’t do.

If a profit can be made from some-
thing, big business will go for it. If that something also helps the environment, the bosses will be sure to get the govern-
ment to throw them some extra money. But capitalist business is driven by the bottom line — by how much profit can be made. There is no meaningful plan-
ing for the future. Each day corporate decisions have to be made to please the investors and stockholders, or the company is allowed to die and the capital behind it goes elsewhere.

Economic planning is the key

It is impossible to reverse the momen-
tum toward disaster without economic planning. In order to have sustainable develop-
ment, a country has to have a plan for its economy. There are only a few coun-
ties today with planned economies, i.e., socialist economies. Most notable are China and Cuba. Cuba’s tremendous achievements in sustainability are well known. But what about China?

People’s China is not capitalism. It is a socialist country born out of a great, earth-shaking revolution. It started out extremely poor and underdeveloped. But after much internal struggle, the leading Communist Party in recent decades has allowed capitalist enterprises to operate there in order to stimulate the growth of its economy. Since then, according to the World Bank, China has lifted more than 850 million people out of extreme pov-
erity — more than two and a half times the entire population of the U.S.

It is now a much more powerful and developed country. And while this devel-
oment of capitalist relations within China has brought significant internal problems, it has not overwhelmed the state, which continues to be controlled by the Communist Party, a party with 90 million members. This means that Chinese economic development, espe-
cially the infrastructure, continues to be centrally planned, which accounts for its enormous successes.

It is not the U.S. but China that now leads the world in scientific-technological development. By 2016, China exceeded the U.S. in the number of scientific papers released, according to the Nature Index. China develops five-year plans for eco-
nomic development with built-in mech-
anisms to reduce greenhouse emissions.

These plans are not wish lists. They are carried through, and they have made a huge dent in pollution. China leads the world in production of solar panels — one of the imports now taxed heavily by the Trump administration. It is electrifying its cities and has become the world’s big-
gest producer of electric cars.

If we are left with a world that is mostly ruled by capitalists and that is headed toward even greater destruction. The great thing about the growth of a movement is that it shows there is hope — that we don’t have to accept a fate that would mean the end of everything. No matter how dire the situation is, we can’t give in to pessimism. Changing condi-
tions do change people’s consciousness, and that new consciousness is moving in the direction of revolution against the powers that be.

There is an historical analogy I want to bring up. It’s a grim one, but it shows how great disasters can be the spur to needed social change.

In the 14th century, from 1347 to 1351, Europe was ravaged by the bubonic plague. In just those four years, one-third of Europe’s population at the time — some 25 million people — died of the plague. This terrible disease had already wiped out a similar proportion of the peoples of East and Southeast Asia.

Europe had been stagnant for centu-
ries under the oppressive system of feu-
dalism. But so many people of all classes, especially the peasants, died from the plague that the manor system, the struc-
ture of feudalism, fell apart. It must have seemed like the end of the world. But many of those who sur-
vived left the manors, looking for work. And because there was such a shortage of laborers, they were able to demand higher wages. It was the beginning of the end for feudalism. Eventually, upheavals brought to power a new class system, capitalism, which revolutionized the means of pro-
duction and produced the working class on a world scale.

We are faced now with a tremen-
dous existential crisis, even bigger than the plague. We shouldn’t underesti-
mate the suffering it will bring. But we cannot lapse into despair and passiv-
ity. Let it be the spur to a revolutionary transfer of power to this great worldwide working class, which must take place if we are to bring human economic activity into harmony with life on our beautiful planet.
Scapegoating the homeless for climate crisis

By Judy Greenspan

Bay Area, Calif.

Two weeks ago, when President Donald Trump flew to California for two days to fundraise for his election campaign, his trip was shrouded in secrecy. No one knew until the last minute where he was going to be. Yet in that short amount of time, Trump was able to shock and scuperv poor and homeless people in San Francisco and Los Angeles with racist and false allegations.

One of the first statements out of Trump’s mouth during his visit to Washington, D.C., was that the homeless population of San Francisco was responsible for pollution, and they had to do something about it. He directed the Environmental Protection Agency to cite the city of San Francisco for violating environmental rules by allowing homeless people to dump their “used needles” in storm drains leading to the ocean. This president, who pulled out of the Paris Agreement on climate change last year, is suddenly concerned about pollution and environmental damage!

Needless to say, Trump’s comments were met by a firestorm of anger from San Francisco’s environmental and home- less activists and even elected officials. David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, said, “Trump has less standing to complain about pollution and home- lessness than just about anybody, since his administration is actively gutting the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws that protect us all from pollution.” (mercurynews.com, Sept. 19)

Save the Bay and three other local envi- ronmental organizations have just filed a massive complaint with the EPA to save California’s wetlands, which have been stripped of protection by Trump. If Trump had done his homework, he would have learned that the Bay Area has one of the safest and most effective water systems in the country, which filters out all solids before sewage waters reach bay. According to San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Trump’s claims are ridic- ulous. He told the Mercury News that “absolutely no debris flows out into the Bay or the ocean.”

Homeless advocates also attacked Trump’s comments. Advocates point out that homelessness has been increasing much faster than services. It is well known that housing is key to breaking into the Bay Area, so that most work- ing people, even those with two incomes in their family, cannot afford to live in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley or nearby communities.

Lack of real affordable housing is the main reason for homelessness. While Bay Area mayors were instanced with Trump’s anti-homeless remarks, their adminis- trations have been part of the attacks on homeless communities. Throughout the Bay Area, homeless encampments have been taken down and destroyed by the police; homeless people are cited and arrested for sleeping outside; and people’s cars and RVs are routinely tick- eted and towed. Bay Area mayors, while administering poorly funded services to the homeless community, have received major contributions from developers and business interests.

Homelessness is a crisis of monumen- tal proportions in California, perhaps the wealthiest state in the country. Trump visited the rich while he was here and used his visit to viciously attack some of the most vulnerable of the working class—the homeless population.

Save the Bay’s Director Lewis said it clearly in a statement to the media: “The way to reduce the impacts from homeless encampments is to reduce homelessness.”

In other words, people need homes. Clearly the capitalist system does not have solutions to the environmental or the homeless crisis. Socialism, a system that puts people’s needs before company profits, is the only system that can provide homes for everyone and save the Earth.

While rate of abortion declines

Title X gag rule will only increase need for abortion

Bulletin: A poll released Sept. 30 by Hart Research Associates shows that about two-thirds of likely voters nationally believe Medicaid should cover abortion as part of comprehensive reproductive health care. In some congressional districts, support for Medicaid coverage of abortion is stronger, with 7 in 10 voters favoring it. Congress passed the Hyde Amendment barring Medicaid payment for abortion in 1976. It is a monumental shift in the struggle to overturn the ban, headed by women of color, particu- larly those on the frontlines of the entire reproductive justice movement.

By Sue Davis

The Guttmacher Institute issued a report Sept. 18 that the rate of abortion in the U.S. declined 8 percent between 2014 and 2017. It’s not at an historic low since abortion was legalized in 1973.

Despite abortion foes’ passage of hun- dreds of state restrictions during those years, the institute concluded that such laws were not the main reason for the decrease. Rather increased use of contra- ceptives accounted for the decrease, espe- cially long-acting reversible birth control methods, free under the Affordable Care Act in some states for preventive health care.

Guttmacher issued a statement in honor of Sept. 26, World Contraception Day, stat- ing that the “vast number of unintended pregnancies—9 million a year—are using contraception or are using it inconsistently and thus may not be protected.” The second pill is the second is sold over the counter in many states. The first pill is tightly controlled and only available to women facing a medical emergency (e.g., to prevent pregnancy after rape).

“Why America’s abortion rate might be declining” speculated that the consequences of the gag rule, brought by 23 states and a number of reproductive rights organi- zations, including Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union’s Reproductive Freedom Project. The Sept. 24 Rewire News reported that government lawyers tried to downplay the consequences of the Title X changes. They argued that of all Title X grantees, only 16 have left the program, representing 20 percent of providers. However, Planned Parenthood, which refused to accept the new rules, now serves about 40 percent of all Title X’s services.

Countering government arguments, Ruth Harlow, ACLU senior staff attorney in its RP, stated that five states are no longer in the Title X program, and Title X funding has ended completely or has guiding fund gaps in 28 states. More than 500 Title X service sites have closed. Harlow stressed that the consequences of the gag rule are still being revealed. Other law- yers for the plaintiffs pointed on the harm the gag rule was causing, including higher fees and long delays in obtaining services.

In accordance with a 1991 Supreme Court ruling, agency decision making must be “reasoned and rational rather than arbitrary and capricious” based on the full administrative record. But even government lawyers had to concede that such a record did not exist at this time. A ruling is expected in several weeks.

Obviously, if the court rules in favor of a temporary injunction, that will go a long way to restoring reproductive health services to 4 million low-income people. But if it doesn’t, then those who support reproductive justice will need to raise holy hell.
Workers march to end climate crisis

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

That climate crisis is a workers’ issue was emphatically affirmed by the IndustriALL Global Union when it called on all affiliates to take part in the September Global Climate Strike actions.

IndustriALL represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors, giving it the power to challenge multinational companies on a global level.

Founded in 2012, the organization brought together former worldwide union federations and affiliates of the International Metalworkers’ Federation; the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions; and the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers’ Federation.

In issuing a global call on Sept. 19, IndustriALL’s general secretary, Volter Sanches, stated: “The climate crisis is real, it is urgent, and it is a threat to working people and communities. The crisis has social and economic dimensions, not just environmental ones. The bridge to a sustainable future and a stable climate is a Just Transition that protects workers, their families, and the communities that depend on them.” (tinyurl.com/y3vcbt3c)

Beyond participation in Climate Strike week, IndustriALL recommended actions affiliates can take, like putting pressure on companies responsible for global warming to pay for remediation and a sustainable transition for workers and communities.

Global climate strikes—Earth crisis arouses millions

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prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015. Her death was linked to U.S.-trained Honduran special forces. Cáceres was opposing an internationally funded hydroelectric dam. (See “Behind the murder of Berta Cáceres,” WW, March 19, 2017.)

The Sept. 27 Global Climate Strike actions swept from Sweden to Morocco to Canada, from New Zealand to India to Italy. In Argentina, people marched in Buenos Aires to the Plaza de Mayo, location of historic resistance to oppression in that country. Around the rim of the imperiled Amazon, rainforest people demonstrated in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

U.S. part of global actions

In the U.S., there were many determined rallies across the country, typified by two actions that took place on the East Coast and the West Coast.

In Atlanta, more than 200 people marched Sept. 27 in a militant demonstration calling for immediate solutions to the climate crisis. The group Extinction Rebellion chanted and took over streets, concentrat- ing first on the Buckhead Business District, the ritziest part of city. After blocking traffic and taking arrests there, they moved on to the Midtown Business District. Once again they blocked a major intersection, taking 19 arrests in all. The youthful multinationa group kept up their spirited action on a day with a record heat level in the high 90s.

On Sept. 25, climate strike activists closed down the main streets in the San Francisco Financial District and blocked entrances to major banks. Carrying signs and banners and chanting, “People, yes! Profits, no! Big Oil has got to go!” they shut down Wells Fargo, Chase, Manhattan, Citibank and Bank of America for several hours. Seven people were arrested for blocking all the doors and driveways of Wells Fargo, one of the biggest financial supporters of Big Oil.

Workers World Party participated in and helped organize a march from one of the blocked street intersections to a local Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters. Led by QUIT (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism), the group blocked the driveway used by ICE buses and strongly made the connection between the climate crisis and intensifying attacks on im/migrants.

On Sept. 27, hundreds of young people and their supporters picketed at the gates of Chevron’s corporate headquarters in San Ramon, Calif., in the San Francisco Bay Area. The young demonstrators not only called for Chevron to stop using fossil fuel, the youth demanded that Chevron stop poisoning the air and endangering the lives of poor communities of color surrounding their plants. Many banners held Chevron responsible for funding and profiting from wars for oil around the world.

A delegation of Youth Vs. the Apocalypse, the main optimizer of the event, was invited behind the gates to meet with Chevron officials. The delegation reported back that, unsurprisingly, Chevron would not make any commitment to stop producing fossil fuel or polluting the air in poor communities around the bay.

Also contributing to this article were Kathy Darokin, Judy Greenspan and Jimmy Raynor.
Biden’s time in Ukraine

That Joe Biden’s interaction with Ukrainian leaders has become a central question in the attempt to impeach the well-hated Donald Trump should mislead no one about the former vice president’s virtues. Biden is a faithful servant of U.S. imperialism, and nowhere was that more clear than with his role intervening in and interfering with Ukraine’s politics to benefit U.S. finance capital.

The establishment magazine, Foreign Affairs, made this clear in an Oct. 30, 2016, article: “No one in the U.S. government has wielded more influence over Ukraine than Vice President Joe Biden.” The article even called Biden “the Obama administration’s point person on Ukraine policy.”

At the time Biden worked in tandem with Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of state when the U.S. boosted the anti-Russian grouping in Ukraine leading up to the “Maidan revolution” there. Victoria Nuland, the State Department’s agent in Ukraine, boasted that the U.S. poured $3 billion into subverting Ukrainian politics in that period.

Biden’s role was to rally support for the regime in Kiev against Russia and the regions in eastern Ukraine that oppose it. He oversaw privatization and austerity in service to finance capital, including raising the retirement age for workers. He helped introduce fracking. His son Hunter Biden became an executive in the gas production company, Burisma Holdings.

Biden also surprised and upset Ukrainian leaders to serve the narrow interests of his family. That’s the kind of corruption Trump understands. It is no less a crime against the Ukrainian people, however, to threaten that country’s leaders into imposing policies serving the general interests of U.S. monopoly capitalism.

The 2016 Foreign Affairs article noted Biden’s “long track record of promoting a robust American role in Eastern Europe — from supporting NATO’s enlargement to pushing for U.S. military intervention in the Balkans in the 1990s.”

In other words, Biden was, and is, an imperialist politician, with a record of supporting U.S. and NATO expansion eastward, and he took an active part in U.S. and NATO imperialist intervention. From 2014 to 2016, Biden acted as an old-time colonial governor for the U.S. in Ukraine. He got the new government a $7.5 billion International Monetary Fund package aimed at the privatisation of the gas industry and the police force there.

He oversaw privatization and austerity in service to finance capital, including raising the retirement age for workers. He helped introduce fracking. His son Hunter Biden became an executive in the gas production company, Burisma Holdings.

Biden also tried to show that Biden threatened the Ukraine’s leaders to serve the narrow interests of his family. That’s the kind of corruption Trump understands. It is no less a crime against the Ukrainian people, however, to threaten that country’s leaders into imposing policies serving the general interests of U.S. monopoly capitalism.

In NYC, movement declares: Independence for Puerto Rico!

Continued from page 3

brothers in the archipelago. We recognize that our struggle for liberation is within a larger framework of justice against capitalism and imperialism. Our solidarity with working-class communities in the U.S., Latin America, Africa and Asia is paramount to our liberation.”

Also for the Frente, Ana M. Lopez told WW: “Our former political prisoners that participated in the march and rally on Sept. 21 were by and large living or born in the U.S. They dedicated their lives for the independence of Puerto Rico. Already two-thirds of our people live in the U.S., thus we are the engine within the ‘belly of the beast’ that will bring our decolonization and freedom at last.”

Another Frente organizer Nephry Rodriguez added, “It was evident, the growing number of youths that participated demonstrating great pride in their identities of being Puerto Rican.” He continued, “These youth are supporting our right to have a free and independent nation.”

The Frente is not stopping after this successful march. On Oct. 3, the movement will hold the Third Peoples’ Assembly from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Overthow, 236 Grand Street, Brooklyn.

These assertions mirror the peoples’ assemblies that emerged after the topping of Gov. Rossello. Sperned by the victory of bringing down a corrupt governor, the people of Puerto Rico are now holding serious discussions throughout the island of what’s next to keep the movement going through these peoples’ assemblies.

It is clear that no corrupt government, no hurricane, no U.S. imperialism can stop the yearning of the Puerto Rican people for independence. Si se puede! ☐

Haitians demand president leave

By G. Dunkel

Beginning in the middle of September, tens of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets in the capital, Port au Prince, as well as in Saint-Marc (Artibonite), Cap Haitien (northern Haiti), Jacmel and Cayes (southern Haiti) and Gonâve (central), in a boiling rage demanding President Jovenel Moïse leave office.

Even after the police used live ammunition to disperse the protests and admit­ted 14 people were killed, thousands of people continued to stay in the streets. A group of Haitian exiles in Montreal (Le Regroupement des Haïtiens de Montréal contre l’Occupation d’Haïti) “is coordinating that the cops have killed dozens of Haitians and wounded hundreds.”

Starting early in 2018, Haitians began locking around their neighborhoods for any concrete results from the $4.3 billion that Venezuela had provided to Haiti in low-cost loans covering oil sales from Petrocaribe. They didn’t find any. They began asking: “Kot Kòt Petro Karibe a?” (“Where is the Petrocaribe money?”)

Two massive national demonstra­tions last October and November provoked government corruption and huge price hikes for fuel. This year, protests and demonstrations, strikes, petitions and public meetings have focused on the severe gas shortage, combined with double-digit inflation and unemployment.

The lack of a government response to the people’s demands along with widespread strikes demanding unpaid wages — from hospitals to the courts, from tax offices to local govern­ment agencies — have left Haitians hungry and angrier. Scarcity of electricity means more food in the markets and less electricity.

Haiti erupts in protest in late September

The protesters in the streets made it clear that they blamed President Moïse. And they were more than willing to take on those who support him.

Sen. Jean Marie Ralph Fethière of Moïse’s party — called the Party of Bold Haitians (PHK) — was confronted by demonstrators who left him stranded on Sept. 23. He drew his pistol, firing into the air and then the ground. A parlia­mentary security guard was shot in the stomach and a well-known Associated Press photog­rapher was hit in the cheek.

Demonstrators later surrounded the Parliament and disrupted its proceedings due to pounding on lampposts and dancing. Some even managed to slip into the building and confront the parliamen­tarians there.

While the cops were killing demo­nstrators, there were also reports of police stations being sacked. Vant Bef, a Haitian internet news service, reported on Sept. 27 that a police station in Port-au-Prince, Sept. 28.

In Saint-Marc was occupied by demonstra­tors, who took armoured vehicles, proof­-rewards, shields and office supplies.

On Sept. 28, when protesters seized the police station in Cité Soleil, the poorest neighborhood in Port au Prince, they took not only what was inside the building but also its tin roof, according to a video shown on France’s TV5. In Delmas and Carrefour, both better-off neighborhoods, there was some looting, car windows were smashed and a few were burned. The supermarket Rois des Rois, a short distance from the National Palace, was also looted and burned. In Cap Haitien, the cops armed vigilantes who shot up two demonstrators who were demanding the resignation and imprisonment of Moïse.

On Facebook and YouTube, some of the protests in Haiti have been covered in real time with uncensored interviews. While everyone wanted Moïse to leave, a number of protesters raised the issue of the need for elections and a new government.

Bigot Trump’s real crimes

Continued from page 1

have attempted to use against this president have been isolated from the working class and people facing oppression.

First, they investigated STOPUS’s relations with the Russian president, attempting to link him with aiding Trump’s election. That failed.

Now the impeachment charges involve Trump’s attempt to use a U.S.-installed Ukrainian regime against Biden, one of the more likely Democratic candidates for presi­dent next year.

In the Trump administration brought smiles to the faces of the ruling class as he cut taxes for the rich and the corporations and opened up new areas of the Earth to the wanton exploitation of natural resources. Now they are smiling less. Business is shaky, and the boast to “make [U.S.] America great again” has cost the U.S. stra­tegically and economically.

Impeachment seems possible, perhaps also to Trump, who exploded against those Democrats attacking him. In his usual blantly racist style, he called those Democrats “savages,” singling out Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and the rest of “the Squad,” plus Adam Schiff and Jerrold Nadler — four women of color and two Jewish men. The president also hinted that his impeachment might bring on a civil war.

These verbal crimes are worthy of a mass mobilization to get rid of the president. But what’s really needed is not a legal maneuver that replaces blatant Trump with subse­quent Mike Pence, but one that sweeps out the whole racist, bigoted, money-grubbing gang. ☐
Contemporary scientists and the public are fascinated by the possibility of existence of life on other planets and their satellites, and have built huge telescopes that examine the origin of the earth and the solar system—inward in time. Moon landings and stories about projected colonies on and around Mars stimulate people’s imaginations.

Astronomical science age-old

However, in reality, astronomical science has been around ever since humans looked skyward. For tens of thousands of years, humans have relied on what is now “Australia,” have handed down through storytelling their knowledge about the constellations to accurately predict the seasons, which is vital to plant and our food supply. Islanders navigated the Pacific Ocean by the stars, passing down their knowledge through song from generation to generation.

Ancient and Indigenous peoples studied the stars for timekeeping, designing calendars and predicting eclipses. These include the East African peoples of Nomoratunga, the Sumerians and Akkadians of ancient Mesopotamia, the Mimbres people of what is now New Mexico, and people living in China as early as 3,000 BCE.

In the Western Hemisphere, the Aztecs developed a complex calendar based on Venus. The Incas used their knowledge of astronomy in agriculture. For the Papago Indigenous people of Arizona, Sicanic Oyate Lakota and other Indigenous peoples, their knowledge of the skies played a major part in agriculture and other essential areas of their lives.

Astronomical developments occurred in the Muslim world, as early as the 9th century CE, in the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, mostly written in Arabic, including the 12th-century astronomical sultan, known for his precise astronomical measurements, built in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the largest observatory in Central Asia at the time.

In 1609, Galileo perfected the telescope and proved that Copernicus was right: the earth revolves around the sun. The Vatican found him “suspect of heresy” and put him under house arrest for life.

In another example, Galileo’s name for its own sake, scientists recently substantiated Einstein’s theory of general relativity using the Keck Observatory, Gemini Observatory and Subaru Telescope in Hawai’i.

Historically, however, astronomical science has not always advanced scientific knowledge, but has been harnessed for war, exploitation and imperial purposes.

In 1950, Columbus successfully threatened Indigenous peoples living in the Caribbean and Central America, as early as the 9th century.

However, in reality, astronomical science has been around ever since humans looked skyward. For tens of thousands of years, humans have relied on what is now “Australia,” have handed down through storytelling their knowledge about the constellations to accurately predict the seasons, which is vital to plant and our food supply. Islanders navigated the Pacific Ocean by the stars, passing down their knowledge through song from generation to generation.

Ancient and Indigenous peoples studied the stars for timekeeping, designing calendars and predicting eclipses. These include the East African peoples of Nomoratunga, the Sumerians and Akkadians of ancient Mesopotamia, the Mimbres people of what is now New Mexico, and people living in China as early as 3,000 BCE.

In the Western Hemisphere, the Aztecs developed a complex calendar based on Venus. The Incas used their knowledge of astronomy in agriculture. For the Papago Indigenous people of Arizona, Sicanic Oyate Lakota and other Indigenous peoples, their knowledge of the skies played a major part in agriculture and other essential areas of their lives.

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In another example, Galileo’s name for its own sake, scientists recently substantiated Einstein’s theory of general relativity using the Keck Observatory, Gemini Observatory and Subaru Telescope in Hawai’i.

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La huelga climática global del 20 al 27 de septiembre exige un examen inquebran-
table de las raíces de la crisis climática. A pesar de las afirmaciones que niegan las razones del cambio del clima, la evidencia científica masiva muestra que la liberación de emisiones de gases de efecto inverna-
dero, principalmente la quema de combus-
tibles fósiles, ha desestabilizado tanto el sistema de autorregulación de la Tierra que la humanidad ahora está sufriendo una cascada de catástrofes no naturales. En los últimos años, hemos visto nive-
les históricos de destrucción y muerte en el hemisferio occidental, recientemente en las Bahamas, Puerto Rico y la costa este de los EE.UU. Todos los días escucha-
os sobre una nueva tragedia climática en otras partes del mundo, desde incen-
dios que devoran las selvas tropicales del Amazonas y África Central, tormentas e inundaciones más intensas, glaciares que se derretan rápidamente, hasta el 41 por ciento de las especies de insectos globales-
es que disminuyeron en la última década, lo que amenaza “consecuencias catastró-
fas tanto para los ecosistemas del planeta como para la supervivencia de la [humanidad],”, según la revista Biological Conservation. (tinyurl.com/yxkhbbqc)

Pero si bien esta es una crisis global, no es de la humanidad un todo irrevisible. Hay evidencia de que se puede avanzar en esta grave situación, que no es causada por los “seres huma-
nos” en general, sino por el sistema eco-
nomico global insostenible: el capitalismo, que no es causada por los “seres huma-
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nomico global insostenible: el capitalismo, al infierno con la humanidad y el capitalista, al inferno con la humanidad y la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ y los oprimidos por la clase propietaria. Así lo han demostrado la huelga climática y la masiva protesta por la salud ambiental del 20 al 27 de septiembre. (Workers World, 24 de abril)

Mientras tanto, Estados Unidos se ha retirado del Acuerdo Climático de París, aunque este acuerdo es solo un primer paso débil para reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Y la adminis-
tración actual, con su propiedad sin control por parte de las grandes empresas a pes-
de la apariencia “populista” de Trump, está revocando rápidamente las regula-
ciones sobre la contaminación. Desde el gas metano hasta el vertido de químicos y las emisiones de los automóviles a los desechos tóxicos del Pentágono, Estados Unidos es, con mucho, el mayor contami-
ante del mundo.

Por un lado, tenemos un gobierno de EE.UU, comprado y destinado al beneficio privado, que se niega a hacer nada por beneficio privado, donde la línea de fondo supera todas las demás consideraciones. Cuba, China lideran el camino; el capitalismo EE.UU. frena el progreso.

En 2016, la Federación de Vida Silvestre Mundial reconoció a la Cuba Socialista como “el único país del mundo que en lograr un desarrollo sostenible, con su firme compromiso con la salud ambiental, incluyó los años de esfuerzo en la reforestación. (tinyurl.com/xy6kmn0)

Además, incluso la revista de nego-
cios Forbes de este año tuvo que admitir: “China se convertirá en la superpotencia mundial de energía renovable”. CNA ha demostrado su compromiso, afirmado, en 2014, para detener la crisis climática. Un ejemplo de esto es que en cuatro años redujo la contaminación del aire de las plantas de carbón en un 32% por ciento en promedio en las ciudades afectadas. (Workers World, 23 de abril)

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Crisis climática un problema de la clase obrera, y la clase obrera tiene el poder de detenerla!