Economic crisis deepens

Young workers show way forward

By Otis Grotewohl

A global economic crisis is emerging, and for readers of Workers World, this comes as little to no surprise. As Marxists and dialectical materialists, we are cautious about making predictions. It is no secret that corporations are bragging about record profits at the same time working people are struggling to afford groceries, gas, baby formula and other necessities. A recent study reveals that “corporate profits rose 35% during the last year and are at their highest level since 1950. Inflation, meanwhile, rose to 8.5% year over year in March.” (Guardian, April 27)

There is a bourgeois myth that “workforce shortages” exist because “people don’t want to work.” The reality is, most people cannot afford to work in dangerous conditions for menial pay. Many employers are offering small hiring incentives, but few are attracting people who are trying to make ends meet, especially those, mostly women, who cannot find affordable child care.

Despite these hiring incentives, bosses are always seeking ways to “cut costs” to enhance their profits, and that includes layoffs and deliberate understaffing of the labor force. The billionaire class wants to squeeze out as much labor as they can, from as few workers as possible. Intentional understaffing is and has been particularly common in the health care and service industries in the U.S.

In “Capital,” Karl Marx notably wrote, “Capital is dead labor, that, vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks.”

U.S. ‘solution’ to economic crisis

The capitalist class’s current “solution” to the very inflation and staffing crisis their profit-driven system created is to raise interest rates. In mid-June the Federal Open Market Committee raised its key interest rate by 75 basis points, which is its largest rate increase since November 1994. (Forbes Advisor, June 15) The “logic” behind boosting interest rates is based on a deceptive prediction that people will spend less, and that should somehow reduce inflation.

Working and oppressed people, particularly the youth, are the ones expected to suffer most because of higher interest rates, which will impact mortgages and student loans. According to freelance writer and business analyst Mary Hall, “… as interest rates rise, many investors believe growth stocks [will] come to appear less favorable, because their long-term discounted cash flow is reduced and their ability to [secure] low-cost debt financing is more difficult.” (Investopedia June 22)

In his 1845 book “The Condition of the Working-Class in England,” Friedrich Engels coined the phrase “reserve army of labor,” a term Marx would often use to describe the segment of unemployed and underemployed workers that would inevitably emerge during the “recovery” after capitalist crises throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Workers World Party founder and chairperson Sam Marcy warned in 1992: “Today the pool of unemployed threatens to become an ocean. And even if there is a recovery and a phase of so-called prosperity, this ocean of unemployed will be wider and deeper than in any previous upturn.”

With the U.S. imperialist state in financial disarray, especially with its proxy war against Russia where the U.S. has spent tens of billions of dollars in a matter of...
Celebrate the Cuban Revolution with Workers World

Workers World/Mundo Obrero joins with the Cuban people in celebrating the 60th anniversary of an event which changed the course of history for their island nation. On July 26, 1953, Cuban revolutionaries boldly attacked the Moncada garrison in Santiago de Cuba and simultaneously conducted a siege of the army barracks in Bayamo. These courageous acts were aimed to strike a blow against the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Although the military goals were not achieved and the struggle suffered a temporary setback, the armed struggle had reached a new stage that continued until the dictatorship was overthrown Jan. 1, 1959. As the guerrilla forces fought in the mountains, an underground movement spread across the country.

Cuba has not only developed in every sphere since the socialist revolution, this island nation has carried out acts of international solidarity to aid oppressed countries in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, whether with military might or medical personnel and supplies. This assistance has been given generously, despite the horrific blockade implemented against Cuba by Washington for over six decades.

Even now during the pandemic, despite having a dearth of medical supplies, Cuba is sharing their COVID-19 vaccines with countries denied them by the imperialist West. Due to the dedication and heroic efforts of their scientists and health care workers, nearly all of their own population has been inoculated with Cuban-produced vaccines. In recognition of their heroic work in dealing with this health crisis, 50,000 representatives of the health and science sectors were invited to lead this year’s May Day march in Havana. Cuba’s leaders thanked them for their remarkable work.

Cuba has deservedly won the support and respect of peoples around the globe. Workers World/Mundo Obrero has shown our unwavering solidarity with this socialist country on this newspaper’s pages and in countless activities on the streets.

WW needs your help!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership.

The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolution-ary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when fewer print issues have been published due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily at workers.org, where the PDF of the weekly newspaper has been displayed. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this over-two-year health crisis.

For a donation of $60 a year, or $120 or $300, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscrip-tions for friends, depending on donation. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate.

We appreciate your help in building Workers World!

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered 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 neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and misrepresentation of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under 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. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless rule today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people of color and women. Super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands, not be stolen in the form of cap-italist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, 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.

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

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Groundswell of support to free Brittney Griner

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As economic crisis deepens, young workers lead

Beyond Biden

Samidoun on Biden in Occupied Palestine

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Tamir Rice remembered, struggle continues

By Martha Grevatt

Tamir Rice would have been 20 years old June 23. But on November 22, 2014, the 12-year-old was murdered by racist Cleveland police. His mother, Samaria Rice, has spent the past eight years fighting for Tamir and finding ways to keep his memory alive.

Hundreds of family and community members gathered July 16 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tamir Rice Memorial Butterfly Garden on the site Rice was killed. The garden honors Tamir as well his sister Tajai Rice, who was 14 when she was handcuffed and brutalized by the police at the scene of the murder.

The garden is in the shape of a butterfly and includes plants that attract butterflies. The butterfly symbolizes qualitative change—from a caterpillar to a butterfly—serving as a metaphor for the qualitative changes needed in the way Black youths like Tamir are treated by police all over the country.

A plaque reads: “This garden represents the injustice of the death of my son, Tamir Rice, and the treatment of my daughter, Tajai Rice—who was 14 at the time and witnessed the death of her brother at the hands of a Cleveland police officer on November 22, 2014. Tajai will forever be traumatized by having experienced the horrific events of that day. This plaque will be a constant reminder of the injustices in our country. “This butterfly garden was created by Tamir’s community, who helped turn this into something beautiful for better memories going forward, for the park, the Rice family and the community. Thank you, Samaria, mother of Tamir and Tajai.”

Speakers included Samaria Rice; Tamir’s siblings Tajai, Tasheonna and and Tyvon Rice; Joseph Chazales and Molly Nagin of the Tamir Rice Foundation; U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown; Rev. Evan Regis Bunch, Transitional Pastor, Fifth Christian Church Disciples of Christ; Chicago artist Michael Rakowitz and Dr. Diane Jones Allen, principal landscape architect for the Butterfly Garden.

Musical artists Anuvybe performed.

Samaria Rice recognized the many mothers and other family members of people killed by police. Present were relatives of Angelo Miller, Craig Bickerstaff, Tanisha Anderson, Vincent Belmonte and others killed in Cleveland; Jum Wang, killed in the Cleveland suburb of North Royalton; and Janamar Robinson, killed in suburban Atlanta.

The pattern continues


Eight years later and two years after the Minneapolis police lynching of Floyd sparked a massive upsurge, the epidemic of racist police violence has not been stemmed.

Most recently the eyes of the country have been focused on Akron, Ohio, just south of Cleveland, where Jayland Walker was killed June 27 in a hail of police gunfire. In the autopsy report released July 15, the Summit County medical examiner stated that Walker had 46 bullet wounds. Despite dozens of arrests of activists in Akron, protests continue to demand justice for Walker and the dropping of all charges against demonstrators. Those arrested have included Bianca Austin, aunt of Breonna Taylor, who was murdered by Louisville, Kentucky, police in 2020, and Jacob Blake Sr., father of Jacob Blake Jr., shot and paralyzed by Kenosha, Wisconsin, cops in 2020.

Hundreds turned out for Walker’s funeral July 13, and several large car protests have shut down traffic around Akron. Samaria Rice has participated in the protests. (7)
Young workers show way forward

Continued from page 1

months, there may not be a recovery fol- lowing the next economic bust. This will likely result in a new vicious assault on the working class.

Workers fight back around the world

On the upside, October 2021 saw an impressive wave of strikes throughout the world and in the capitalist U.S. The combination of collective labor actions became known as “#Strikethr3r.”

According to the National Labor Relations Board, union representation petitions filed between October 2021 and March 2022 at the NLRB increased 57% from the same period a year earlier. Workers at over 300 Starbucks stores have filed petitions for union elections recog- nized by Starbucks Workers United, and over 90 locations have successfully orga- nized. In a visible response, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has been trying to use divisive union-busting tactics to dis- courage future SWU union drives.

Amazon warehouse workers in Staten Island, New York, recently voted to be recognized by the newly formed Amazon Labor Union, and many other locations are hoping to follow suit. At the same time, ALU is currently being held hos- tage by Amazon in ongoing NLRB hear- ings in Phoenix over Amazon’s bogus “objections” to the union win. Much like Starbucks boss Schultz, Amazon CEO- Jeff Bezos is determined to break the ALU and its organizing campaigns.

As higher-paying union jobs have deteriorated over the decades, low-wage jobs that are predominantly nonunion have expanded. The union victory of ALU, led by its president, Chris Small, has been inspiring for many young peo- ple, especially nationally oppressed and union bureaucracy, who do not feel welcomed by, or see themselves as part of, the official labor movement.

The fact that the ALU was not formally honored at the recent AFL-CIO conven- tion, held June 12-15 in Philadelphia, speaks volumes. Fortunately, at the Labor Notes convention held June 12-15 in Philadelphia, the ALU was honored at the recent AFL-CIO conven- tion, held June 12-15 in Philadelphia, as part of, the official labor movement.

Workers all around the world have been inspired by the success of ALU. In other parts of the world, workers who have traditionally been excluded by the trade union bureaucracy, such as sex workers, gig workers, prisoners and people formerly incarcerated, are organizing for revolutionary change.

Class-struggle unionism over class collaboration

In a recent summation of the finan- cial catastrophe, “The Working Class and the Global Capitalist Crisis,” WWF First Secretary Larry Holmes posed key ques- tions: “So will the economic crisis take the steam out of the worker organizing? Or will it make workers more angry, maybe even make them more revolutionary? These are questions that we have to take very seriously.

“If the working class is to win a revolution, it must be prepared to do so and must use all the means at its disposal. These means include strikes, general strikes, occupations of factories and offices, and the general strike as a form of direct action against the war machine.”

What Road to Socialism?

The centrality of fighting racism and anti-LGBTQ2S+ big- otry is to determine the form of the revolution.

Workers assemblies are crucial in class-struggle unionism over class collaboration. Workers assemblies are crucial in bringing about the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. In the U.S., on the other hand, the most unions are part of the Democratic Party. Red-baiting and the Taft-Hartley law’s anti-communist clause drove communists out of the labor movement in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Prior to McCarthyism, com- munists inside many U.S. unions, especially those affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), employed a strategy known as “class-struggle unionism.”

Class-struggle unionism strives to give leadership power to the rank-and-file and avoid the class-collaborationist tactics of “business unionism.” Class-struggle unionists epitomized the most militant, class-con- scious and anti-racist labor agitators, who prioritized organizing women, immigrant and nationally oppressed workers—those shamefully ignored by conservative elec- tors of the labor movement.

Class struggle unions that exist in the U.S. today include the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, United Electrical Workers (UE) and California Longshore and Warehouse Union, United Electrical Workers (UE) and California Longshore and Warehouse Union, United Electrical Workers (UE) and California Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Smash fascism and build workers assemblies

One way workers are coming together in an inclusive and revolutionary manner is through workers assemblies, bring- ing organized and unorganized workers together. Workers assemblies advance class consciousness and class unity, in some ways similar to how the soviets, i.e., the “workers’ councils,” came into being about the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Workers assemblies also connect dif- ferent issues that are tied to capitalism and imperialism. One powerful example is the Southern Workers Assembly, which features class-struggle unions, rank-and- file leaders of other union activism who are organizing the predomi- nantly nonunionized South. SWA is active in many struggles against racism and social injustices.

Workers assemblies can fill the void in the U.S. labor movement. There should be calls for mass rallies by the AFL-CIO and SEIU to defend ALU and SWU, but that is not happening. Instead, the national lead- erships of most major business unions are once again urging people to “respect the process” and “vote Democrat.”

Workers assemblies can call for much needed direct action and do not need to rely on the bourgeois courts or electoral system. Workers assemblies are crucial in combating the fascist rot that has been spreading in the United States. Fascism—which relies upon the vilest forms of racism, sexism, anti-Semitism and anti-LGBTQ2S+ big- otry in order to exist—is a poisonous product of dead-end capitalism that often appears in times of crisis. Fascists will target oppressed people.

Workers assem- blies can operate as anti-fascist defense organizations. Workers assemblies should consciously be led by, and representative of, oppressed workers.

In his conclusion, Holmes declares, “All the issues are tied together. And what ties them together is the class struggle. We must have a perfect working-class strat- egy going forward. Because that class strategy is the only strategy able of defeating war and fascism and ultimately bringing about communist revolution.”

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Cleveland

‘No contract, no coffee!’

Starbucks workers, union and community supporters demonstrated outside the University Circle Starbucks store in Cleveland July 15. In addition to showing solidarity with the workers trying to unionize that store, demonstrators were protesting the firing of a member of the union organizing committee by Starbucks the week of July 3.

The store, near Case Western Reserve University, is one of three Cleveland stores where the National Labor Relations Board will count union election ballots in July.

Chants of “No contract, no coffee!” rang out as drivers, including union bus drivers and city workers, honked continuously.

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

What to read next?

What Road to Socialism?

A Workers World anthology, confronting the burning questions and key contradic-
tions during this global pandemic and global capitalist meltdown.

Topics include:

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Why is everything getting so expensive?

By Ben Carroll

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, rising energy and food costs pushed the annual inflation rate in the U.S. to 8.6% in May, the highest in 40 years. The president and many economists blame the roots of the problem in the global capitalist system, but a slightly edited version of an article published by Workers World, Jan. 2, 2022.

The prices of all basic goods and services necessary for human survival have been going up—in some cases, way up. There is no major city where a person working 40 hours a week on a minimum wage of $7.25 can afford a one-bedroom apartment.

This comes in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a profound crisis of public health made far worse by the for-profit healthcare management system in this country. It has exacerbated the deepening crisis of global capitalism, ushering in a wave of job losses, evictions and more suffering for workers and the oppressed.

The “mainstream” press is filled with a range of supposed explanations to diagnose why inflation has set in so rapidly in the U.S. and similar economies around the globe. But the reality is that none of these explain the root causes of what is driving down the standard of living for millions of workers in this country.

So what’s really to blame for the rise in prices?

**Capitalist system in crisis**

Since the 2008 financial crisis, the global capitalist system has been on life support, propped up for the past decade by the central banks funneling unprecedented infusions of money to the commercial banks and financial institutions. In 2018, the Federal Reserve has pumped upwards of $8 trillion into the financial system and maintained very low interest rates throughout this past decade. It has ramped up this activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2008 to 2014 alone, the Federal Reserve printed $3.5 trillion (!) in new money—nearly three times the amount of money the Fed created since its inception in 95 years earlier. During this entire last decade, the Fed has kept interest rates near zero, for a longer period of time than ever before.

When the bank in 2018 tried to begin raising interest rates and scaling back its printing of new money—known as “quantitative easing”—capital revolted. This sent stocks sharply lower and forced the Fed to abandon its plans and return to the regime of near-zero interest rates, thus pumping trillions of dollars into the coffers of the banks and large financial institutions. (politico.com, Dec. 28, 2021)

**Speculation, cheap money, low wages, high profits**

Several phenomena happened as a result. On the one hand, the amount of money hoarded by the banks and borrowed to speculate in financial markets is at a record high. When the Bank of England was asked how much cash banks were hoarding, it could not even answer. The amount of money in so-called “margin debt” incurred prior to the financial crisis of 2008.

A report by the McKinsey Global Institute, published in 2021, found that just above two-thirds of global net worth was now stored in real estate, while only around 20% was stored in other fixed assets or means of production. This phenomenon is driving wild speculation in real estate, raising the cost of renting or owning a home and intensifying the familiar scenes of gentrification across the U.S. and the globe. (tinyurl.com/bf4cahmy)

Since 2010, the stock market has doubled in value, during a period of time characterized by permanent unemployment and underemployment, the rise of the so-called gig economy, austerity measures and more suffering imposed on the working class and the oppressed.

The superrich have seen their wealth balloon during this period, intensifying the antagonisms between labor and capital and bringing the contradictions inherent in the capitalist system sharper relief.

At the same time, the number of so-called “zombie companies”—those which hold substantial amounts of debt relative to profit and are thus barely able (or are altogether unable) to pay off their debt—has continued to rise. A recent report published Dec. 28, 2021, more than 650 out of the country’s 3,500 largest corporations are considered “zombie” companies—near bankruptcy. This proliferation has been driven in large part by the Federal Reserve’s policy of making money extremely cheap for banks and large corporations to borrow.

This brings us back to the question at hand: What’s driving inflation?

For the owners of these companies and financial institu- tions—the capitalist class—some inflation is a desir- able thing. After all, the name of the game for the bosses is expanding profits and beating out rival firms, and higher prices increase profits or otherwise offset any rise in costs of raw materials needed for production, etc. That is what is in play now. Faced with access to easy money to borrow and invest, coupled with higher costs for raw materials based on the various supply chain issues impacting the global economy, bosses are raising prices to protect and, in many cases grow, their profits.

This access to easy money has given corporations the ability to automate production to a higher degree, investing in robots and other technology that enable each worker to produce more commodities. Indeed, the pro- ductivity of labor has increased substantially over the past several decades, while the real wages of workers have stayed relatively flat or, in many cases, fallen.

As labor becomes more productive

But a curious thing happens as labor becomes more and more productive. Under capitalism, it is the exploitation of labor (or labor power) that creates value. There is a general tendency then for the value of commodities to decline over time as the supply of those goods rises, based on less human labor being needed to produce them.

The argument by many mainstream economists and CEOs—that growing demands from workers for higher wages, especially among the lowest-paid workers, is driv- ing or even contributing to inflation—is categorically false.

The ‘mainstream’ press is filled with a range of supposed explanations to diagnose why inflation has set in so rapidly in the U.S. and similar economies around the globe. But the reality is that none of these explain the root causes of what is driving down the standard of living for millions of workers in this country. So what’s really to blame for the rise in prices?

Karl Marx disproved this theory in his groundbreaking work “Value, Price and Profit,” noting that “a struggle for a rise in wages follows only in the track of previous changes and is the necessary offspring of previous changes in the amount of production... in one word, as reactions of labor against the previous action of capital.”

A general rise in the rate of wages would result in a fall of the general rate of profit but not affect the prices of commodities. Out-of-control inflation, however, can become unbearable for the capitalist class. It can lead to ballooning costs of raw materials—and even more dangerous, to social unrest, making access to borrowed money more expensive.

If this were to happen, it is what the Federal Reserve and other central banks are currently considering: they would undertake a series of interest rate hikes and scaling back its printing of new money—replacing a drive for profits with price controls, triggering another financial crisis and an economic decline that would affect the global economy. It would be managed by trying to extract even more concessions from the working class and the oppressed.

**Class struggle decisive**

It is the preferred policy of the federal government and central banks to use various monetary policy tools at their disposal to control rampant inflation. But it wasn’t always this way.

After the end of World War II, the United States experi- enced a similar period of high inflation. At that time, there was a militant and growing workers’ movement in the streets, fighting for various social reforms, building unions, conducting strikes and more. Rather than utilize monetary policy tools to deal with inflation, the federal government and central banks enacted price controls. In the early 1970s, similar measures were again imple- mented to deal with rising inflation.

But starting in the late 1970s, roughly coinciding with capital’s renewed offensive against labor, there was a shift toward the monetary policy route as the ruling class’s preferred method to deal with inflation, and that has been the case ever since. The Federal Reserve at that time raised interest rates through the roof, exacerbating a punishing recession in the economy.

Things are different now. In terms of subjective factors like the level of worker organization and conscientiousness, as well as objective factors regarding development in the global capitalist economy, the working class today is not in a position to engage in a more inflationary trends will head and with what method the federal government and cen- tral banks will choose to respond. The newly combative attitude of workers, forced to stay on the job throughout the pandemic, exposing themselves and their families to the risk of COVID-19 while earning small change, compared to the millions raked in by the companies they work for, will play a decisive role going forward.

Workers on the move

This growing workers’ movement could raise demands for a price freeze, higher wages, an end to evictions, free health care, an end to the war on migrant workers and other pro-worker initiatives to address the increasingly dire conditions facing the working class.

The Federal Reserve and the federal government have bent over backwards to hand out trillions of dollars to the banks and large corporations. Each year, they spend billions of dollars to bail out U.S. companies and the Pentagon, funding U.S. wars abroad in the interests of capital.

During the pandemic, the federal government imposed fines on or altogether forgave various debts held by work- ers, implemented an eviction moratorium, gave stimulus payments directly to workers and took other measures to alleviate the public health crisis. Altogether, this demonstr- ates that the money is there to implement programs and policies that benefit the vast majority of society versus the interests of the rich. What has been missing is a mobilized and militant workers’ movement to fight for it.

But that is changing. As another deep and protracted crisis of the capital- ism deepens, it is imperative for the workers’ move- ment and its most revolutionary elements to find ways to intervene.

**Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle**

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper edited by Monica Moorehead

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination

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Saladin Muhammad • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

Douglas Moore • The Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!

Minnie Bruce Pratt • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

David Dellinger • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

Sam Marcy • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

Tamonie Jackson • Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination

Karl Marx • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

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Letters from behind the walls

Re: “Released after 46 years, Bradford Gamble exposes medical abuse,” WW Vol. 64, No. 12 (wwp.pub/gamble)

I read with interest the organization published on Bradford Gamble before it ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Twas a well-written article that speaks volumes to what occurs in Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections locations, medical-wise. What they did was just downright deplorable, not immediately getting Mr. Gamble know that he had cancer.

I was in a cell next to Mr. Gamble at SCI Coal Township. I read a lot of what he was going through, as he and Mr. [Bryant Arroyo] asked me at times to type a few things for them on this and other matters. Mr. Arroyo was an adamant advocate for Mr. Gamble to be released from jail on compassionate grounds. Kudos to him and EVERYONE that worked on getting Mr. Gamble out. I hope your organization and EVERY organization out there keeps vigilant in these kinds of endeavors and get more inmates released on compassionate grounds when they are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Thank you to ALL of you!

Craig J
SCI Coal Township
Pennsylvania

Groundswell of support to free Brittany Griner

By Monica Moorehead

The struggle to bring Brittany Griner home intensifies. The star center for the Women’s National Basketball Association’s Phoenix Mercury has been incarcerated in a Russian prison since her arrest at a Moscow airport on Feb. 17 for drug possession, after vape pen cartridges of hashish oil were discovered in her luggage.

She pled guilty to the charge, hoping this action will eventually lead to a reduced sentence and a possible prisoner exchange between the U.S. and Russia that will bring her back home. She is still on trial.

Los Angeles Lakers forward, LeBron James, arguably considered the face of the Women’s National Basketball Association, stated in a trailer for the latest episode of his YouTube broadcast, “The Shop: Uninterrupted.” “Now, how can she feel like America has her back? I would be feeling like, ‘Do I even want to go back to America?’”

In response to James’s remarks, Griner’s coach, Vanessa Nygaard, stated: “If it was LeBron, he’d be home, right? It’s a statement about the value of women. It’s a statement about the value of a Black person. It’s a statement about a gay person. All of those things. We know it, and so that’s what hurts a little more.”

During the WNBA All-Star game on July 10 in Chicago, every player wore a blazer with Griner’s name and her number 42 during the second half of the competition. On July 5 a letter was hand delivered to the White House signed by an estimated 1,200 Black women urging that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris do everything possible to insure Griner’s release. The letter said in part, “It is imperative, President Biden, that you address this ongoing human rights crisis and make a deal to bring Brittany home quickly and safely.”

Some of the signers include Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; actor Anika Noni Rose; singer Ledisi; television hosts Shaun Robinson and Sunny Hostin; former NAACP President Hazel Dukes; University of South Carolina women’s basketball coach and three-time Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley; and numerous speakers, columnists and executives from the WNBA.

Women charge abuse at Stewart Detention Center

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

July 17 – Once again, a privately-operated immigrant detention center in Georgia is the focus of abuse charges by several women detainees.

A male nurse employed by CoreCivic at the Stewart Detention Center (SCD) in Lumpkin County has been named in an official complaint to the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Four women who were held at the SCD between late 2021 and early 2022 have described their frightening encounters with the nurse, who told them to remove their shirts and in at least one case a bra, to check their heart with a stethoscope while touching their bare skin. One woman said he put his penis in her hand and ordered her to pull down her pants.

They reported other very sexualized motions and facial expressions he made while supposedly examining them for an injured wrist or upset stomach.

Two immediately reported his behavior to corrections officials, who then subjected them to harsh, multiple interrogations, accused them repeatedly of lying and threatened them with seven years in prison for the human rights of mutation. The other two, fearing retaliation while in prison and a longer time in detention, came forward after being released.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, along with a number of immigrant advocacy groups, filed the charges July 13. The groups include: CoreCivic, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, Project South and El Refugio.

Stewart opened in 2006 as a men-only facility, one of the largest detention centers in the country. Its failure to provide adequate medical care, edible food and sanitary conditions quickly brought it to the attention of immigrant rights activists.

For years, Georgia Detention Watch and its member groups have held demonstrations in Lumpkin and at the ICE headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours from the SCD’s headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours from the SCD’s headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours from the SCD’s headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours from the SCD’s headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours from the SCD’s headquarters in Atlanta, written detailed reports and initiated meetings and tours.

Women began being housed at Stewart in late 2020. This followed the explosive revelation that women at the Irwin Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, had undergone unnecessary gynecological procedures without their consent. The federal government cut its ICE contract with Irwin’s private prison corporate operator and began to ship women to Stewart in late 2020. Stewart already had a reputation as the deadliest ICE detention center in the country, due to lack of medical care and suicides. Then COVID-19 deaths cemented that brutal reality.

CoreCivic claims its investigations into these charges found them to be “unsubstantiated” and “unfounded.” The male nurse was still employed at Stewart as of May.

On July 15, a press conference was held in front of the Atlanta ICE office. The speakers demanded that the women who so bravely came forward be believed and that Stewart be shut down now.

Additional information can be found in the July 14 Intercept article, “The Worst Day of My Life.”
First signs
My PSA levels were first tested on Oct. 8, 2021, at which time the reading was 14.3, above the 4 which is considered the “normal” level. My PSA level was tested as part of routine blood tests that I receive biannually, as part of my ongoing treatment for chronic hypertension. The prison doctor recognized the reading to be abnormal and told me as much when he saw me a few days after the blood tests for my routine hypertension checkup.

He ordered a follow-up PSA test to determine if the results were correct or a “shuck,” because, according to him, the PSA tests sometimes come back with erroneous elevated readings. He told me he would see me again after this second test to discuss the results.

A follow-up blood test was administered Nov. 10, 2021. I would later discover that this reading came back even higher, at 14.6. The doctor never saw me again.

Second signs
My next regularly scheduled hypertension-related blood tests were taken six months later. My PSA levels came back again at 14.6. A few days later, I was seen by the chronic care Nurse Bendyl for my routine hypertension checkup.

At that time she told me that my PSA levels were extremely high and had been when I was seen on chronic care six months before. She expressed concern that I had not been sent immediately out to a urology clinic for examination and testing after the abnormal PSA test results six months before. I mentioned that this was clear malpractice. In response she assured me that she would have me promptly seen by a urologist.

Testing and diagnosis
On March 22 I was taken out of the prison to a urologist for initial consultation and scheduling for an MRI and biopsy. The MRI was performed May 26. I was told nothing about the results by NCC medical staff, so I filed a complaint within the prison.

In response I was told I would be seen on sick call that week. I was not seen.

I was then taken out to the Medical College of Virginia on June 23 to receive a biopsy. At that time hospital staff told me the results of the May 26 MRI. I was told that it showed a “spot” in my prostate that might be cancer. This area, they explained, would be targeted in the biopsy along with other random areas. More than the biopsy, 13 specimens were taken from my prostate.

I was able to speak to NCC Dr. York, not the doctor who saw me in 2021 while I was in the medical department a few days after my biopsy. This was a chance meeting, where he happened to walk past me going on his lunch break, and I stopped him to raise concerns about my possible condition and lack of prompt care.

He immediately acknowledged that from my description, my situation had not been properly addressed and committed to look into it. He also assured me that he would have me brought to the medical department a week later, by which time the biopsy results should be available, which he would share with me.

On July 1 Dr. York called me to the medical department and read the biopsy results to me. It found that 11 of the 13 specimens taken from my prostate showed positive for cancer. Also, that I suffered prostatitis.

I then had a follow-up encounter with Dr. York the week before, no one would have told me of my diagnosis.

And had I not pressed the issue with Nurse Bendyl during my April 22 hypertension chronic care visit, I might never have been sent to a urologist for testing and diagnosis.

A cancerous prison system
What happened to me is typical of prison medical departments. Often, incarcerated prisoners are left to suffer, deteriorate and die from lack of care or from substandard care.

I’ve written about this in relation to other prisoners many times over the years, in the many prisons and prison systems I have been confined to. My acute awareness of this disregard for our health needs is one reason I am extremely vocal and vigilant in pressing officials to address the conditions that I have on me and others’ medical care needs.

This is but another layer of the inhumanity that inheres in the U.S. mass-incarceration system. This injustice demands that we address the root causes of this system to be razed to the ground and that one oriented to healing people be erected by and for the people.

Dare to struggle, dare to win! All Power to the People!”

Extreme weather and mass incarceration deaths

By Mirinda Crissman

Houston

Across the hottest places in the U.S., people in prisons, jails and detention centers often face unbearable and sometimes lethal conditions behind the walls, where air conditioning is not provided.

The Prison Policy Initiative has found that many famously hot states lack universal air conditioning in prisons and jails.

In New York City, the Rikers Island jail is always overcrowded. I spent 67 days in the “latrines” of the city. Temperatures in typically temperate Washington State prisons topped 115 F last year, with no air conditioning in place statewide to keep those incarcerated safe. (Grist.org, June 4)

Rikers Island was in an excessively crowded state like Texas and Louisiana have caused some imprisoned people to be evacuated before storms into packed gymnasiums, with other criminal justice agencies in the wake of devastating hurricanes in locked cells and waist-high water and sewage for days. (tinyurl.com/sgjy9c9e)

Prisons, jails and detention centers are a public health crisis in a myriad of ways. The people typically locked behind the walls are disproportionately Indigenous, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+, disabled and often a combination of multiple interlocking oppressions. (tinyurl.com/qyv4ra4)

Conditions in the places where they are locked constitute a modern, ongoing genocide. Under capitalism prisons, jails and detention centers are operated as concentration camps for the poor and oppressed members of the working class. They produce conditions ripe with mass incarceration.

It is on us to abolish the material conditions that made this system of mass incarceration possible. Free them all for public health! 

By Kevin “Rashid” Johnson

On July 1, 2022, I was informed by a prison doctor here at Virginia’s Nottoway Correctional [sic!] Center (NCC) that I had tested positive for prostate cancer.

This diagnosis came after I had been left for months by NCC medical staff without a PSA test. I had been told that as part of routine blood testing I receive biannually, my PSA test results showing that my PSA (prostate specific analysis) levels were extremely high, evidence likely prostate-related illness. This delay in follow-up testing and treatment left the cancer to develop or advance beyond stages at which it might have been less serious.

My PSA levels were first tested on Oct. 8, 2021, at which time the reading was 14.3, above the 4 which is considered the “normal” level. My PSA level was tested as part of routine blood tests that I receive biannually, as part of my ongoing treatment for chronic hypertension.

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My cancer − and the cancerous prison system

Dare to struggle, dare to win! All Power to the People!

ART BY KEVIN RASHID JOHNSON

GRAPHIC: JOAN WONG/HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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‘Mothers of Gynecology’ monument exposes horrors of slavery

By Monica Moorehead

A righteous tidal wave of anger followed people seeing the nine-minute-plus videotaped police lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis late May 2020. Racist monuments celebrating the slave-owning Confederacy came tumbling down, especially in the Deep South. These acts to take down statues were part of historic mass protests that swept the country during the summer of 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The enslaved Black ‘Mothers of Gynecology’ are now honored in this memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Turnaway Study — when reproductive freedom is denied

By Marie Kelly

There has already been catalytic movement to this place. SCOTUS handed down the states’ rights case in 1962. Roe v. Wade, ending federal guarantee of right of access to abortion and allowing states to completely ban abortion. It hasn’t taken long to hear stories of forced pregnancy, a pro-choice state vital medical care withheld for them, already oppressed whether forced to give birth because of restricted resources to travel to, a pro-choice state.

The Turnaway Study — when reproductive freedom is denied

By Kathy Durkin

The Turnaway Study — when reproductive freedom is denied

By Monica Moorehead

This was the prevailing view of enslavers who had been treated worse than animals. Twenty years earlier the monument paying homage to J. Marion Sims, once praised by his contemporaries as a medical marvel, was removed from Central Park in New York City, following many years of protest. Sims believed that Black women did not experience the same kind of pain as white human beings. Black people were nothing more than chattel to Sims and his ilk, who viewed them as less than human and actually treated them with more animals.

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NATO exploits Picasso’s anti-war ‘Guernica’

By Renán Vega Cantor

This article from El Colectivo, July 7, edited by María Piedad Ossaba of lapulma.net and translated by John Catalinauño, refers to events at the June 28-30 NATO Summit in Spain.

The photo is outrageous, although at first glance it appears harmless: A group of women are posing, and in the background is “Guernica,” Pablo Picasso’s iconic anti-war painting. What is behind this seemingly innocent and banal photo?

To understand it, it is necessary to discuss who the women in the photo are and what was happening when it was taken. Because let’s remember there is no text — in this case it’s all visual, just a photo — without a context that might allow us to understand it.

In the photo, women are linked to European or North American power. They are the “First Ladies,” who met in Madrid on the occasion of the NATO Summit in early July. They were summoned there by Spanish Queen Letizia Ortiz.

That is to say, they are women who accompany the presidents and prime ministers of the member countries of that military alliance that serves U.S. imperialism. And they were summoned precisely not about peace, but about war.

In this context, the photograph is an apology for war on the part of the women linked to NATO power. Considering the circumstances, the image of Guernica has been dragged through the mud.

Guernica is a universal icon that denounces the role of war in general and the fascist aggression suffered by Spain in the 1930s in particular.

Guernica 1937

It is worth remembering that the painting in question was created by Picasso in mid-1937, following the bombing of the town of Guernica, which occurred on April 26 of that year. The town was the town of Guernica, which occurred in question was created by Picasso, on assignment in the Palestinian refugee camp of Jenin. Journalist murdered by Israeli Defense Force troops while

On that day, an indiscriminate air raid by German and Italian planes supporting [Spanish Nationalist] fascism killed some 300 people in the town and inaugurated the [modern] war of terror from the air — that is, the indiscriminate bombing of cities and their (civilian) inhabitants.

In Paris, two days after the attack, Picasso saw in French newspapers the destructive results of the bombing and began the work that later culminated at the request of the government of the Second Spanish Republic, which commissioned [Picasso] for a painting to be exhibited in the Spanish pavilion at the 1937 international exhibition in Paris.

Due to the result of the Spanish Civil War, that is, the triumph of Franco’s regime, “Guernica” was kept outside Spain until 1981, when it returned to that country and is now exhibited at the Reina Sofia Museum.

“Guernica” is an iconic painting of the 20th century and one of the most important anti-war symbols of all times, due to the manner in which it was created, its purpose of denouncing fascist crimes during the Spanish Civil War and for being an early pictorial announcement of what was to come with World War II and its trail of death and destruction by the Nazi hordes.

At the time of its creation, Picasso himself categorically stated: “In the mural ‘Guernica’, [...] I clearly express my hatred for the military caste that has shipwrecked Spain in an ocean of pain and death.”

But now it turns out that NATO, a criminal organization par excellence, is using “Guernica” as a symbol of its wars of aggression against the world, where the blood and pain generated by the fascist forces in the small town of Guernica on April 26, 1937, are multiplied.

Daniela Ortiz condemns the misuse of art

For all these reasons, it had to be a painter, the Peruvian Daniela Ortiz, who left a testimony of her indignation because this was like use of Guernica.

With that motive she wrote a letter to the president of Madrid, demanding the withdrawal of her works from that museum.

It is “aberrant,” Ortiz wrote, that “a piece created in response to a bombing should be used as a backdrop for those political figures who choose to impose war at a global level.”

She noted in her letter that at this summit, held days after the massacre that took the lives of at least 37 migrants, the war conflict in Eastern Europe is even more tense with the entry of Sweden and Finland into NATO, which “implies an intensification of the war and persecution of the Kurdish people,” to satisfy the appetites of Turkey. NATO “has taken a step further in the escalation of militarization, generation of wars and conflicts,” after singling out China “as a threat.”

She deplored that the Spanish government under President Pedro Sánchez has “succeeded in getting NATO to incorporate the so-called Afghan crisis as a hybrid threat. [...] This decision will further strengthen the militarization of the border and the deadly violence against the migrant population.”

She stressed that “the Reina Sofia Museum, funded largely with public money from the Spanish and NATO’s war-making” and “should not use public resources to carry out these deplorable events.”

In this letter, something essential is emphasized, which is that the Museum should not only watch over the physical integrity of “Guernica,” but also its moral integrity.

Because it is unacceptable to use a work that denounces the crimes of the original fascism of the 1930s as a justification for the crimes of the present-day fascist and imperial armies of NATO in the 21st century.

Poor “Guernica” and poor Picasso in the hands of those who are preparing World War III and who are the direct political descendants of Hitler, Franco and Mussolini.

Translator’s notes:
The Turkish regime had delayed Finland and Sweden’s entry into NATO until those Nordic states stopped granting asylum to Kurdish refugees. On June 29, Moroccan security forces and Spanish police stopped some 2,000 African migrants climbing a chain link fence to enter Spain’s Mellila enclave bordering Morocco. Nearly 40 migrants died.

Biden in Occupied Palestine and the ‘Jerusalem Declaration’

Samidoun Palestine Prisoner Solidarity Network issued this collective statement with co-signers “in struggle and solidarity” July 16. The full list of signers, including Workers World Party and the International Action Center, is at samidoun.net. Organizations can endorse at bit.ly/bidenpalestine.

The joint declaration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid reveals not only the fundamental bankruptcy of the imperialist and Zionist systems they represent but also underlines the necessity to act and to build a solidarity with the Palestinian people and their resistance, to liberate their land from the river to the sea. “Biden and Lapid’s deceptions of Franco’s violence, its warmongering, repression and colonialism must be met with our own anti-Zionist, anti-imperialist strategic practice,” it states.

Issued in occupied Jerusalem, itself a signal of the declaration’s alignment with impunity for ongoing war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the document boasts of “shared values and shared interests.” It is clear that the shared values referred to here are those of imperial domination, settler colonialism and the violent oppression of Indigenous peoples. We reject these “shared values and shared interests” and instead uphold the shared values of humanity; the dismantling of apartheid and settler colonialism, the liberation of the land and the protection of peoples’ rights, not war profiteers’ greed and colonial land dispossession.

The declaration repeatedly attacks the Palestinian resistance and all forces and nations in the region that seek to defend their right to sovereignty and self-determination. It labels Palestinian resistance as terrorism while remaining silent on the ongoing extrajudicial killings of Palestinians, mass incarceration, land theft, siege and the exile of millions of Palestinians denied their right to return home. Israel and the U.S. are waging colonial war. Their declaration asserts a right to unilateral war, the logic of the colonizer, and boasts of the over $3.8 billion in U.S. taxpayer money sent to further that arm of war (while enriching U.S. arms developers). The Palestinian people, like all colonized people, have the right to defend themselves.

Biden and Lapid reinforce their attacks on boycott campaigns, the growing call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) and the “delegitimization of Israel and its museums” to suddenly attempt to link campaigns for justice and liberation in Palestine with anti-Semitism. In reality, the campaign to boycott and isolate Israel is growing on our campuses, in our community centers, labor unions and academic associations, in our food co-ops and social justice organizations, in the streets of our cities and communities. Such statements do nothing to legitimate a fundamentally illegitimate project — the colonization of Palestine and the dispossession of Palestinians.

While Biden and Lapid trumpet their military alliance, we must respond with a people’s alliance: that is, an alliance that firmly rejects imperialism and Zionism that builds the very boycott campaigns they seek to undermine or even criminalize, that supports the Palestinian people and their resistance against the imperial and racist and that stands together against the systems of domination, injustice, settler colonialism and exploitation that they represent. Together, we organize and struggle until return and liberation, from the river to the sea.
Beyond Biden

Young people who backed Joe Biden in 2020, because they feared or hated Donald Trump, are now fed up with the Democratic Party. Trumpism was repudiated, disowned, and looking for new solutions. That was the message in a long article in The New York Times interviewing youth from around the country. And in a poll published a day earlier. The articles warned the Democratic Party leadership they faced a midterm disaster. The interviews showed that youths supported Biden in 2020 because he promised to defend abortion rights, fight the climate crisis, impose gun controls, provide affordable health care, crush COVID-19 and rebuild the infrastructure to stimulate the economy. He promised to defend the economy.

In fact, all that happened. Biden abandoned Build Back Better, hardly contested SCOTUS on Roe v. Wade, reopened oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico, changed nothing regarding assault weapons and now presides over 2,500 COVID-19 deaths per week while boosting vaccination.

One West Virginia senator, owned by the power monopolies, has provided the administration's excuse for failing to make real progress. He says that the single largest oil producer in the world, as an ally, even if it means ignoring significant human rights violations.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Biden reportedly failed to confront Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman about the Saudi state-sanctioned murder of Washington Post contributor, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018. When questioned about this by reporters upon his return to the White House, Biden's revealing response was “Why don’t you talk about something that matters.”

That was the message in the New York Times article about the young people who supported Biden in 2020. But they are now fed up and looking for new solutions.

Middle East visit

No Palestinians living under Israeli occupation benefited from President Joe Biden’s brief Middle East visit. Biden had the executive power to reverse the damage done when former President Donald Trump tried to reverse his predecessor’s policies of backing Saudi Arabia against Yemen, regardless of the cost.

Biden talks about human rights, then visits two of the Middle East’s worst human rights violators. He criticizes other countries – socialist and those not loyal to Washington – for their alleged human rights violations, yet, as Trump did, visited the Saudi government which execute people by the thousands every year. Biden spent much of his trip reinforcing Trump’s policies for the region, instead of implementing the policies he campaigned around. Human rights violations were never a concern for Biden’s visit to the region. His priority was securing access to the region’s oil reserves – now that the U.S./NATO-backed war in Ukraine has shifted off global access to oil from Russia.

A major plan for the U.S.-instigated NATO war in Ukraine was to set a price cap on Russian oil. So far the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel has refused to go along with the U.S. plan. Washington has made it a priority to keep Saudi Arabia, the third largest oil producer in the world, as an ally, even if it means ignoring significant human rights violations.

Safe consumption sites

Ending the war on people who use drugs

By Princess Harmony

New York City 2020. In the shadow of the COVID-19 epidemic are two others: the opioid and overdose epidemi. Since the start of these epidemics, there have been thousands of deaths from overdoses, even when the people who OD don’t even know they’re consumed opioids. While the difference between the two epidemics, there have been thousands of deaths from overdoses, even when the people who OD don’t even know they’re consumed opioids.

The overdose epidemic is the epidemic of people knowingly abusing opioids. The overdose epidemic is the epidemic of people overdosing from fentanyl analogues and other opioids unknown to addicts when non-opioid drugs are tainted by dangerous opioids such as acetylfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, omfentanyl and carfentanil.

What are the preventive measures to keep people from overdosing on opioids, knowingly or unknowingly? One is to keep naloxone (Narcan, Evzio) on hand to ensure that users can have their overdoses reversed. Another is to keep fentanyl test strip on hand, to catch the presence of fentanyl or most fentanyl analogues before one uses tainted substances. These methods save lives. But they require people being ready ahead of time. What can so consistently save the lives of drug addicts and others with Substance Use Disorder?

Safe consumption sites

The operation and usage of safe consumption sites are places that addicted people can go to keep from overdosing on fentanyl or any other opioid. These safe consumption sites are places that offer naloxone rescue. Some even provide methadone and buprenorphine referrals or treatment. Around the world where these services are offered, people’s lives have been saved in more than one way.

Whether it’s being rescued with Narcan or saved from the risk of HIV and hepatitis B and C, and the sites work to serve working and oppressed people with Substance Use Disorder.

In the U.S., there has been a so-called “War on Drugs” that has been underway for the last 50 years. Under President Ronald Reagan, continued under the Clinton administration in the 1990s, the George W. Bush administration in the 2000s and the Trump administration in the 2010s. The decades of anti-drug measures were in fact a war on communities of color, with many young people sent to jail for life.

Now there’s good news from the Journal of the American Medical Association. In a July 15 research letter to the JAMA Open Network, there is proof that safe consumption sites in the U.S. work here, just like in other countries. (tinyurl.com/4e4by5tc)

Despite the continued demonization of people who use drugs Continued on page 11

Biden in 2020 because he promised to defend abortion rights, fight the climate crisis, impose gun controls, provide affordable health care, crush COVID-19 and rebuild the infrastructure to stimulate the economy. He promised to defend the economy.

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Middle East visit

No Palestinians living under Israeli occupation benefited from President Joe Biden’s brief Middle East visit. Biden had the executive power to reverse the damage done when former President Donald Trump tried to reverse his predecessor’s policies of backing Saudi Arabia against Yemen, regardless of the cost.

Biden talks about human rights, then visits two of the Middle East’s worst human rights violators. He criticizes other countries – socialist and those not loyal to Washington – for their alleged human rights violations, yet, as Trump did, visited the Saudi government which execute people by the thousands every year. Biden spent much of his trip reinforcing Trump’s policies for the region, instead of implementing the policies he campaigned around. Human rights violations were never a concern for Biden’s visit to the region. His priority was securing access to the region’s oil reserves – now that the U.S./NATO-backed war in Ukraine has shifted off global access to oil from Russia.

A major plan for the U.S.-instigated NATO war in Ukraine was to set a price cap on Russian oil. So far the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel has refused to go along with the U.S. plan. Washington has made it a priority to keep Saudi Arabia, the third largest oil producer in the world, as an ally, even if it means ignoring significant human rights violations.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Biden reportedly failed to confront Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman about the Saudi state-sanctioned murder of Washington Post contributor, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018. When questioned about this by reporte...
COVID-19 variant hits
Cuba leads in health and vaccination rates

By Sara Flounders

As the most dangerous COVID-19 variant hits with full force, almost all precautions and mandates in the U.S. have ended—business must continue at all costs. With over 1 million dead, the United States has the highest number of deaths and infections in the world. The U.S. also has one of the lowest rates of vaccinations, systematic testing for COVID-19, and genome sequencing among developed countries.

CNN sounded the alarm July 14: “Nearly two-and-a-half years since the coronavirus pandemic began, the most infectious and transmissible variant yet has arrived…. Now the virus is spreading again—evolving, escaping immunity and driving an uptick in cases and hospitalizations.”

Many news media described how the new variant, labeled BA.5, can easily evade immunity from previous infections and vaccines, increasing the risk of re-infection. The variant was first detected in daily deaths in the U.S. rose 26% over the past two weeks to 48 daily deaths (down from 61 deaths per week). (Chicago Tribune, July 13)

Despite vague and uncoordinated appeals to get vaccinated and booster shots, only about 67.1% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. This includes about 60% of 12- to 17-year-olds and only 30% of children ages 5 to 11 years. (American Academy of Pediatrics, July 13)

Cuba’s socialist medicine

The lack of preparation in the face of a new wave of infections and deaths stands in stark contrast to the incredible accomplishments of blockaded and sanctioned socialist Cuba. A June 18 Washington Post article, “How Cuba became a pioneer in COVID-19 vaccines for its successful COVID-19 vaccine development of Soberana 02, an inexpensive vaccine,” stated: “Over 90% of the population is vaccinated. Last September, Cuba launched the world’s first mass children’s coronavirus vaccine campaign, reaching 1.7 million youngsters aged 2 to 18. The most interesting admission, from a voice of corporate power, is the description of a health industry focused on the whole population.”

Cuba sent students abroad for study and built a “Scientific Pole” in Havana consisting of around 90 research institutions and enterprises. When COVID-19 hit, the country had three decades of experience and building a vaccine industry. Cuban scientists now work at the Institute for Medical Genetics at the University of Oldenburg in Germany. Several medical journals covered Cuba's success and published new findings. The results were “very encouraging.” (tinyurl.com/2phbbp4v)

In October 2021, Cuba announced that 100% of its then-eligible population had received at least one dose of its COVID-19 vaccine.

The Washington Post raised a fundamental question: “How did Cuba reach the finish line so fast?” Its vaccine makers credit the extraordinary teamwork of scientists around the globe. When the pandemic began, they quickly shared discoveries on the internet, such as China’s research breakthrough in creating the first vaccine, known as SARS-CoV-2.

The Cuban vaccines offer a significant advantage to developing countries that lack the ultracold freezers and transportation needed to store vaccines. In fact, a box of vaccines made by U.S. Big Pharma companies require this storage and transportation much easier.

But Cuba wasn’t starting from scratch. In the 1980s, then-President Fidel Castro poured more than $1 billion into an ambitious new biotech industry. Cuba sent students abroad for study and built a “Scientific Pole” in Havana consisting of around 90 research institutions and enterprises. When COVID-19 hit, the country had three decades of experience and building a vaccine industry. Cuban scientists now work at the Institute for Medical Genetics at the University of Oldenburg in Germany. Several medical journals covered Cuba's success and published new findings. The results were “very encouraging.” (tinyurl.com/2phbbp4v)

Cuba’s vaccines have been sent to about 120 countries and territories, with Cuba’s successful COVID-19 vaccine development of Soberana 02, an inexpensive vaccine. Over 90% of the population is vaccinated. Last September, Cuba launched the world’s first mass children’s coronavirus vaccine campaign, reaching 1.7 million youngsters aged 2 to 18. The most interesting admission, from a voice of corporate power, is the description of a health industry focused on the whole population.

Cuba has decades of experience, including a national pediatric immunization program where 98% of children under 5 are immunized against 13 diseases, an annual polio vaccination campaign (both launched in 1962 and uninterrupted since) and campaigns to control epidemics such as H1N1. When the first COVID-19 cases were detected on the island in March 2020, Cuba harnesses its scientific expertise, making a hard tack toward developing its own vaccines.” (pmusmed.nbm.nlm.nih.gov)

Cuba has used the capability to produce a lifesaving vaccine of enormous value to the whole world, Cuba, due to U.S. sanctions, faced a shortage of syringes and vials for the vaccines provided by international donations to vaccinate its population. A New York-based charity, Global Health Partners, sent 6 million syringes.

Cuba shares with the world

Cuba—despite the U.S. blockade, its small size of 11 million people and its limited resources—has continued its highly developed medical research and sent more than 40 medical teams to more than 30 countries to fight COVID-19.

Cuban vaccines have been sent to Vietnam, Venezuela, Syria, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Nicaragua. Soberana 02 is being manufactured in Iran, and Cuba is sharing its technical knowledge to help other countries manufacture vaccines locally. Cuba is in discussion with more than 15 countries, most of which are low-income nations, said Rolando Pérez Rodríguez, director of science and innovation at Cuba’s state-run pharmaceutical conglomerate, BioCubaFarma.

As many health officials have said that they will apply for World Health Organization approval, having secured funding to produce 200 million vaccine doses for low-income countries.

“Those vaccinated with the Cuban vaccines, Soberana and Abdala, have high percentages of seroconversion against the omicron variant,” said Ileana Morales Suárez, director of science and technology innovation at Cuba’s Ministry of Public Health. The results were “very encouraging and favorable.” (benj.com)

Cuba and China cooperate on new vaccines

Cuba and China formally announced July 15 that they have joined for joint pat-ent for a Pan-Corona vaccine. The new vaccine, a collaboration between the biotechnology departments of the two coun-tries, is the first patent for a single vaccine effective against the many variants of “COVID-19, all other coronaviruses and possible new related pathogens,” according to BioCubaFarma president Eduardo Martínez Díaz. (tinyurl.com/gn9bx5h8)

The Pan-Corona project is based in a joint biotechnology development and research center, operating since 2019 in the city of Yongzhou in Hunan province, and led by experts from Cuba’s Center for Biotechnology and Biotechnology (CIGB).

The joint Cuba-China statement describes how the high-level bilateral polit-ical relationship and the unwavering friendship between the two communist parties, governments and people allow us to continue to strengthen a strategic alliance and a special relationship. As socialist countries, Cuba and China have unlimited potential. “Health must take advantage of for the benefit of our people and humanity.”

China has the productive capacity to mass produce and distribute these new vaccines on a global scale. China, along with protecting its own population, has already shipped and helped distribute more than 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines around the world. China’s vaccines have largely gone to developing countries that didn’t have the capacity to pay U.S. and European pharmaceutical industry prices.

While Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna are making combined profits of $1,000 a dose, Cuba’s vaccines are made by U.S. Big Pharma companies. This means much higher profits for the pharmaceutical industry. While China has the productive capacity to mass produce and distribute these new vaccines on a global scale, China, along with protecting its own population, has already shipped and helped distribute more than 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines around the world. China’s vaccines have largely gone to developing countries that didn’t have the capacity to pay U.S. and European pharmaceutical industry prices.

Life expectancy

The success of a people-oriented pub-lic health approach is proven by the rising life expectancy in both China and Cuba. Life expectancy in Cuba, 79.08 years, is higher than in the U.S. (macro.trendnet.com). In 2022 life expectancy in China, now at 78.2 years, is surpassed only by the U.S. (Global Times. 7/31) Life expectancy in the U.S. fell from 78.9 years in 2019 to 76.6 years in 2021. It is now more than five years less than the average among peer developed nations. (CNN, April 8)

U.S. life expectancy is declining year by year based on COVID-19 and numerous untreated chronic diseases, from diabetes to heart disease to protein in the body of a poor medical system. Capitalism’s drive to maximize profits costs lives every day. Even in the face of a global pandemic and climate crisis, ruthless competition makes cooperation and long-term planning impossible.

Countries with socialist planning, such as Cuba and China, have the capacity to meet new challenges and through cooperation open whole new frontiers of human knowledge.

Safe consumption sites

Safe consumption sites, OnPoint NYC, East Harlem location.

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Guerra, libertad sexual y fascismo en Alemania

Por Leslie Feinberg

Además de los ataques legislativos a las mujeres, a las personas no conformes con el género y a las vidas de los LGBTIQ+, en algún momento fue el punto de partida para el movimiento de emancipación de las personas no binarias blancos como los Proud Boys han intentado una incursión de estilo militar en Pride in the Park en Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, y han invadido bibliotecas públicas en Wilmington, Carolina del Norte, y en San Lorenzo, California, para interrumpir eventos infantiles donde se leían libros relacionados con LGTBQ+. Estos cursos de Lectura de Lectura & Respuesta Leslie Feinberg (24 de junio y 1 de julio de 2004, Workers World) nos recuerdan que los nazis utilizaban un método para fomentar el creciente poder de la clase obrera. Comienza a organizar la solidaridad práctica — y la seguridad de los eventos — protegiendo a sus amistades locales y los seres queridos en su programa online.

El estallido de la Primera Guerra Mundial des influyó el impulso de los movimientos por la emancipación sexual y de género y por los derechos de las mujeres en Alemania. ... En cada uno de los países a la autodeterminación en la postsocialista de post-código civil. ... Donde se leían libros relaciona- dos con LGTBQ+. La mayor biblioteca LGBTQ+ del mundo (workers.org) nos recuerda que los nazis usaron la guerra contra los judíos de la revolución [alemana], “el Comité de lectura y aprendizaje” para promover el crecimiento de las mismas.

La mayor biblioteca LGBTQ+ del mundo (workers.org) nos recuerda que los nazis usaron la guerra contra los judíos en la Plaza de la Ópera. ... Al igual que un río caudaloso, los movimientos políticos se compone de muchas corrientes. ... Los revolucionarios deben trabajar constantemente para deshacerse de signos de adoctrinamiento de la clase dominante como una forma de gratificación. ... Los nazis ocultaron deliberadamente la naturaleza fascista de su partido llamándose “nacionalsocialistas.” Pero su respuesta a una encuesta [de los parti- dos políticos alemanes sobre su posición respecto al párrafo 175] muestra que el programa nazi era lo contrario de un par- tido obrero comunista. La respuesta nazi incluía esta escusa frase: “Cualquier que piensa por piensa en el amor homosexual es nuestro enemigo.”

Represión capitalista, resistencia socialista
A finales de la década de 1920, el movimiento fascista se consolidó en la clase media económicamente devastada con el apoyo de los industriales y banqueros alemanes para llevar a cabo el trabajo sucio de la contra-revolución. La represión estatal de la homosexualidad, el sexo y el现身 para imponer la unidad económica capitalista de la familia nuclear patriarcal fue un pilar fundamental de la plataforma fascista. Las campañas nazi se centraron en la erradicación de la homosexualidad y el aborto, en la imposición de la procreación y en la fuerte restricción de los derechos y el papel de la mujer en la sociedad, ade- más del fascismo y el chovinismo nacional. Los revolucionarios en diferentes países condenaron, y a menudo las protestas de las mujeres y los hombres, incluso los revolucionarios. La lucha por la fuerza, los desafíos y las organizaciones juveniles independientes, incluyendo las católicas, denunciando a sus dirigentes como “degenerados homossexuales.” ... Un libro y un piso que anuncian la llegada de una nueva generación.

El error frente a la ideología
Siembre hay, una profunda dife- rencia entre el error político y la ideolo- gia política. [En 1928] el abogado Felix Hirschfeld de la revolución de la postura del Partido Comunista Alemán: “El proletariado con conciencia de clase, no influenciado por la ideología de la pro- piedad y liberado de la ideología de las igle- sias, aborda la cuestión de la vida sexual y también el problema de la homosexualidad con la falta de prejuicios que le proporcionan la comprensión de la estructura social general. ... De acuerdo con los conocimien- tos y la experiencia de los partidos comunista, el proletariado considera estas relaciones como una forma especial de gratificación sexual y exige la misma libertad y restric- ciones para estas formas de vida sexual para las que las relaciones entre los sexos,...”

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Leslie Feinberg en el Boston Youth Pride, 2005.

El fascismo quema libros y ataca a las personas LGTBQ+.

Al mismo tiempo, la contrarrevolución alemana encabezada por Hitler y financiada y respaldada por un segmento de la clase industrial y bancaria había conseguido una base en la clase media. Este fascismo tenía como objetivo los movimientos de derechos de los gays/trans/hébicos y de las mujeres, incluyendo el acoso legal contra las instituciones gay/trans, codificadas en 1933-35, marcaran oficialmente el desencadenamiento de la caza terrorista contra la comunidad LGBTIQ+. Hirschfeld fue el objetivo de los nazis porque era judío y gay, además de líder del movimiento y socialista. ... El 6 de mayo de 1933, jóvenes fascistas se organizaron para marchar sobre su Instituto de Ciencias Sexuales, acompañados por una banda de música. Destruyeron el archivó internacio- nal, haciendo una montaña de los muchos miles de libros, revistas, fotografías y gráfi- cos en aquel momento la mayor colección de fotografías, fotonovelas y géneros” de la historia del mundo. Las tropas de asalto aparecien- ron y se llevaron en el saqueo. Cuatro días después, el enorme montón de mate- rial de archivo fue quemado públicamente en la Plaza de la Ópera. ... Después de 1933, los nazis desmante- lan la fuerza de los movimientos de derechos LGTBQ+ y gases/lesbianas, condenadas y enviadas a campos de concentración donde se enfrentaron a una horrible brutalidad. Aprender de los errores

Comunistas y socialistas de todas las sexualidades y géneros lucharon contra el fascismo en Alemania a lo largo de décadas de gas/ trans/lesbianas y de las mujeres. Sin embargo, hubo un choque en la homo- sexualidad por parte de los socialistas y comunistas de la izquierda alemana? Si. “La izquierda no era [...] y políticamente monolítica. ... Al igual que un río caudaloso, los movimientos políticos se compone de muchas corrientes. ... Los revolucionarios deben trabajar constantemente para deshacerse de signos de adoctrinamiento de la clase dominante como una forma de gratificación. ... Los nazis ocultaron deliberadamente la naturaleza fascista de su partido llamándose “nacionalsocialistas.” Pero su respuesta a una encuesta [de los parti- dos políticos alemanes sobre su posición respecto al párrafo 175] muestra que el programa nazi era lo contrario de un par- tido obrero comunista. La respuesta nazi incluía esta escusa frase: “Cualquier que piensa por piensa en el amor homosexual es nuestro enemigo.”

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