Ukraine
Will U.S. sabotage grain deal?

By Sara Flounders

July 24 — A deal brokered by Turkey for the export of grain from both Ukraine and Russia presents a political problem for U.S. imperialism and its war aims. Washington’s response: ship more weapons.

The landmark deal to move hundreds of tons of grain, if it moves forward, undermines U.S./NATO determination to continue the war in Ukraine despite the cost to that country and the dire threat of famine in countries around the world.

Washington is especially frustrated that the deal was arranged by NATO-member Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and that U.N. Secretary General António Guterres participated. Erdogan has refused to go along with the thousands of sanctions imposed on Russia.

Washington strategists aim to direct this proxy war in Ukraine and extend it, if possible. Billions of dollars in military contracts and war profits are at stake.

Yet, the grand plan of a global front that would make Russia collapse is going awry.

In another development, photos of Russian President Vladimir V. Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkey’s President Erdogan showed them meeting in Tehran July 19, providing a warning of U.S. imperialism’s losing political control. The meeting of Washington’s two main targets challenges the claim that Iran and Russia are isolated and facing collapse. Russian gas giant Gazprom has signed a $40 billion agreement with the National Iranian Oil Company to help Iranian producers develop oil and gas fields throughout their country.

A week earlier, President Joe Biden’s trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia ended in a total failure. Biden failed to shape a coalition against Iran. He failed to convince Saudi Arabia to increase oil production or to accept the U.S.-proposed oil cap on the price of Russian oil.

U.S. response — more weapons

The immediate U.S. response to the grain deal involving both Ukraine and Russia and the meeting in Tehran was to announce an $270 million in military aid to Ukraine. The U.S. administration vowed to supply Ukraine with more high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) along with 580 Phoenix Ghost tactical drones. The U.S. and Ukraine portray the HIMARS rocket launchers as “a potential game changer” in the conflict.

White House national security council representative John Kirby announced the new arms transfer by again predicting a long war: “The president has been clear that we’re going to continue to support the government of Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes.” (AP, July 22)

Over the last five months, the U.S. and its European allies have supplied billions of dollars in weapons to Ukraine and imposed unprecedented sanctions on Moscow. It is well understood that the continuing influx of weapons, military contractors and coercive economic measures will prolong the war.

The food deal

The complex deal to move hundreds of tons of both Ukrainian and Russian grain and fertilizer through narrow, de-mined channels in the Black Sea, then through the Bosporus into the Mediterranean Sea and world markets involved separate agreements with Ukraine and Russia. Ukraine’s military had mined the Port of Odessa and refused to remove the mines, citing military priorities. At the same time Ukraine’s government blamed Russia for blocking the mined harbor.

The 120-day limited agreement — which is no ceasefire — creates a demilitarized corridor through the Black Sea for...
**Resistance is growing to abortion ban**

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

The response to the Supreme Court decision June 24 to end the legal right to access abortions, denying bodily autonomy of women and other people who can become pregnant, was immediate in Georgia. Mass demonstrations, rallies, marches and a sustained 24-hour-a-day vigil on the Capitol steps drew large numbers of youth, women of all ages, LGBTQ+ individuals and whole families. Black and other people of color initiated and led many actions.

In Georgia abortion was legal up to 22 weeks of pregnancy, until July 20 when the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the state’s 2019 so-called “heartbeat law” was legal since the Supreme Court had overturned the legal right to abortion established in the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling. Similar laws have been passed in other states based on the anti-abortion movement’s false claim that at six weeks of pregnancy, sounds of embryonic electrical activity are actually the sounds of a beating heart. They are not. (NPR, May 3)

Most people are not even aware they are pregnant at six weeks’ gestation, so this ban virtually outlaws abortions throughout the state. Georgia’s law offers some exceptions in cases where the pregnant person’s life is in danger or if the fetus would not be viable at birth. There are also exemptions if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest—but the assurance must have been reported.

However, the Georgia law omits much further than other state bans and declares embryos have “personhood” rights beginning at conception. This means that an embryo should be counted in population censuses reports, can be declared a dependent on state income taxes and would be eligible for child support payments. That’s just for starters.

The list of unknown legal issues facing medical practitioners, social service agencies and state, county and city revenue departments, as well as law enforcement, is mind-boggling. Undoubtedly, there will be scores of court challenges to this horrific law, but meanwhile pregnant people will be denied the right and ability to make critical decisions affecting their own lives.

Stop criminalizing health care!

The fear is real that criminal charges could be brought against pregnant people who cross state borders to obtain an abortion. Could people be arrested for having a medication abortion with pills? How long will doctors wait to assist someone having a miscarriage, septic infection or an ectopic pregnancy? Georgia already has an awful record for maternal deaths, especially for Black women. The state is one of 12 that has not fully expanded Medicaid coverage, resulting in millions of residents not receiving basic health services, much less obstetrical and gynecological care. Black women are three times more likely to die because of pregnancy complications than white women; that figure is predicted to rise by an additional 28% with the abortion ban in effect.

Dr. Nisha Verma, a Georgia OB-GYN, testified July 19 before Congress on the impact of eradicating the legal right to abortion. She stated: “The abortion ban will undoubtedly worsen maternal outcomes in Georgia, forces doctors to turn away patients we know how to care for.

“Now, doctors are in impossible situations— situations where [Georgia Gov. Brian] Kemp’s law directly violates the medical expertise we gained through years of training and the oath we took to care for our patients. ... As a provider of comprehensive reproductive health care, I know people are capable of making informed decisions about their health and lives—it’s indefensible that any politician would try to infringe on those decisions for them.”

(tinyurl.com/3jbd9q8ta) – July 28, 2022

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**Driving 100 miles to give birth**

By Ellen Cohen

Philadelphia

Women seeking abortions are not the only ones who often have to travel long distances to give birth. In a recent report, Delivering Healthy Babies (DHB) units all across the U.S., particularly in rural areas, have been shutting down, forcing women in labor to drive many miles to give birth. This may increase pressure on patients to schedule inductions or even C-sections, procedures that account for about 32% and 38%, respectively, of all U.S. births.

“Between 2004 and 2017, 179 rural counties lost or closed their hospital obstetric units. Consequently, fewer than 50% of rural women have access to perinatal services within a 30-mile drive from their home, and more than 10% of rural women drive 100 miles or more for these services. These conditions affect access to care before, during and after pregnancy and are more pronounced in the Black and Hispanic communities.”

(tinyurl.com/2s4cm7hf)

Another 892 rural hospitals – more than 40% of all rural hospitals in the country – are now in danger of being closed, according to a March 4 article in Becker’s Hospital Review. (tinyurl.com/242yhyh)

That article does not specify how many of these hospitals offer maternity care. However, DHB units are usually among the last hospitals to be closed because of their dependence on Medicaid payments for 50% to 60% of rural births, and its reimbursement rates are lower than other insurers.

According to the March of Dimes, more than 2.2 million women of childbearing age in 1,095 counties have no hospitals offering obstetrical care, no birth centers, no OB-GYN medical services or certified nurse midwifery. (tinyurl.com/yr8fhzh)

After the denial of federally protected access to abortion by the U.S. Supreme Courts, women, girls and other people who can get pregnant are being forced by many states to carry pregnancies to term, even in circumstances of rape, life-threatening conditions or extreme poverty. But for many of those being forced to continue a pregnancy, there is little to no medical help available to guarantee their health and safety—or that of the child.

Ellen Cohen worked for 22 years as a certified nurse midwife in New York City. As a graduate nurse midwife, she participated in research that led to the first breakthrough in preventing mother-to-child transmission of the HIV virus.

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**Court evictions order won’t stop UC Townhome protests**

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

University City Townhomes residents resisting eviction responded with a march to the state Capitol in Atlanta, highlighting the impact on Black women of the new state law and the Supreme Court decision nullifying legal abortion.

On July 23, the Georgia NAACP and other organizations initiated a march to the state Capitol in Atlanta, highlighting the impact on Black women of the new state law and the Supreme Court decision nullifying legal abortion.

The coalition and the Philly Workers Solidarity Network issued a call urging city sanitation workers, represented by AFSCME, and other union members to not cooperate with property owners in removing the encampment. The call notes that union members have a stake in the battle against gentrification and for affordable housing. UC Townhomes resident Sheldon Davids, a member of District Council 33 AFSCME Local 696, stated: “This particular instance concerns the families [who] reside at UC Townhomes; their impending vulnerability reflects that which beholds a massive and increasing amount of disenfranchised people across our city. Disenfranchisement is a wall, which sustains union efforts have sought to chip away at in its pursuit for a better standard of living.”

(tinyurl.com/bdhze8h)

Lack of affordable housing creates ‘potentially hazardous conditions’

The encampment of 15 tents was set up July 9 at the conclusion of a day-long Rally 4 Housing Fest to Save the UC Townhomes, protesting the owner’s plans to evict the 70 low-income families and sell the property to developers. People occupying the tents include residents and supporters vetted by residents. All involved have worked to make sure that the protest encampment is a safe and secure place.

The over-two-week tent protest has garnered broad media attention that was lacking prior to the action. The residents put up large protest signs, including one which covers most of the street side of a SEPTA transit entrance just outside the protest.

Property owner, IBID Associates, a subsidiary of the Altman Group, claimed they were concerned that the tenants’ support is represented by a group of people posing security concerns. In a statement to the court, IBID Associates said protesters were creating an unsafe and “potentially hazardous condition.”

For IBID to suddenly express concerns for the residents they plan to evict Sept. 7, with no plans to support those who will live, smack of extreme hypocrisy. Even with federal housing vouchers, residents fear city landlords won’t take the vouchers because of the ongoing shortage of afford-

Continued on page 4
How prison labor works in Arizona

The following article was excerpted from an Arizona Republic and KJZZ News July 22 investigative exposé revealing “what happens when a state exploits some of its poorest people for their labor.” Full story at tinyurl.com/ap0f6mm.

After 15 months of gathering and analyzing more than 11,000 documents and building a computer program that downloaded tens of thousands of public profiles about the jobs prisoners do, the Arizona Department of Corrections refused to provide — reporters at the Arizona Republic and KJZZ News found that prison labor during the past 10 years has become ubiquitous across the state.

Prison work, for example, is in places that many people would never have realized: Prisoners can earn money from woodworking at hip bowling alleys; they construct trusses, cabinets, and walls frames at well-known private home developments and at apartment buildings; they work inside kennels for pet adoption shelters; they build confessionals in churches; they act as janitors and groundskeepers at schools and libraries; they watch the night shift of staff and students so no one knows they’re there.

Many prisoners say they enjoy the jobs, if only because it gets them out into the free world and gives them something to do. The biggest problem: They are often paid less than $1 an hour, and despite the misconception that everything in their lives is paid for, prison life is really quite expensive. Prices for goods are about the same as in the outside world. From pens and paper to envelopes and stamps, it could take a full week for some prisoners to buy what they need to send a single letter to a family member by mail.

There are about 2,000 prisoners who are meant to get paid more. These elite members of the incarcerated population work for a state-run company under the auspices of the Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry. Prisoners at ACI do two things: They either make products for sale to government entities and private businesses, or they are leased out to private companies that have trouble finding workers for jobs that few people in the free market would be willing to do.

Despite their higher pay, prisoners who work for ACI don’t get to keep it all. Far from it. The state takes large chunks from their paychecks, forcing them to pay room and board, utilities and other expenses. In some cases, prisoners pay upward of $700 a month to live in their own cells. The Department of Corrections argues that the money helps offset the costs of incarceration, and ACI’s jobs help prisoners get work after they are released. As to the deductions from prison paychecks, prison officials said it’s not responsible for those, since state law requires the Department of Corrections to remove that money.

Even before Arizona was a state, prisoners were mandated to work while riding out their sentences. The idea was to save the government money — not to help private companies turn a profit.

‘Convict leasing’ again in 1995

That changed in 1995 when ACI began quietly leasing out its captive workforce to the corporate world. Prisoners were paid pennies on the dollar to perform tasks inside of the prison such as to mop floors, rake the yard or do agriculture work. When an opportunity comes to do the same job outside prison, that bump in pay, the majority interviewed said they gladly made the move.

But working on the outside of prison comes with its own complications, such as being strip-searched every day, being degraded in public by being forced to line up and have their pockets searched at the end of each day, or working in intense heat for hours and then threatened by corrections officers for taking breaks when they’re tired.

The Republic and KJZZ found multiple prisoners who reported injuries that were not recorded by the Department of Corrections and also hadn’t been properly treated. Some of them will never be able to work again. But they are not entitled to workers’ compensation or unemployment, because they were incarcerated at the time of their workplace injuries.

The Department of Corrections contends that it and its private partners are required to follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. But when asked about particular instances in which prisoners reported injuries, the department did not provide evidence of any reports that had been done to ensure prisoner health and safety at any locations where prisoners worked.

The study also showed consistent racial disparities in hiring patterns among well-paying jobs at many of the state’s more high-profile companies that use prison labor.

Julian Assange defense files appeals, granted extension

By Tareq Haddad

This excerpted article, which originally appeared July 16 in Popular Resistance, can be read in full at tinyurl.com/kfxskbxz.

London — Following a June 17 decision from the Secretary of State Priti Patel approving the order to extradite Julian Assange to the U.S., lawyers for the imprisoned WikiLeaks publisher have since submitted filings indicating they intend to fight the decision on 16 legal grounds.

As first revealed by The Wall Street Journal, law-yers for Assange submitted four grounds of appeal against Patel’s decision, including that Patel erred in deciding that Assange’s extradition was prohibited by Article 4 of the U.K.-U.S. Extradition Treaty — the clause that prevents extradition for political offenses.

On June 30, Assange’s lawyers filed a further 12 grounds of appeal. First, the lawyers argued the extradition request submitted by the U.S. was an “abuse of process,” given that Assange was charged with 10 counts of violating the Espionage Act of 2003.

The documents indicate … a long and complicated appeal, submissions for which are likely to exceed several hundred pages. As such, Assange’s lawyers will now have until Aug. 28 to submit their filings.

The filing does not automatically entitle the defense to raise all its points at appeal. Judges from the Court of Session will “certify” that each objection has sufficient legal merit before the defense can use that objection to proceed.

The case continues. □

Court evictions order won’t stop UC Townhome protests

Continued from page 3

able housing. And residents don’t want to uproot their lives from a community they have lived in for over 40 years.

IBID originally bought the property in 1980 to con-struct the low-income subsidized housing units, located in what little remains of an historic Black community, long targeted by gentrifiers. After benefitting from decades of state and federal financial assistance from tax credits and housing subsidies, realtor Brett Altman now plans to demolish the Townhomes and sell the land for up to $100 million.

The lawyers also argued Patel erred in her application of “specialty arrangements” with the United States — essentially further agreements under the Extradition Treaty — on three occasions. Namely, that Assange ought to be protected from charges that carry the death penalty, for conduct outside the extradition request and from criminal intentions proceedings. Judges from the Court of Session will “certify” that each objection has sufficient legal merit before the defense can use that objection to proceed.

The case continues.

Putting families out on the street, without the financial means to secure housing in a city where rents average $2,000 a month, is the real hazard. The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in University City, where UC Townhomes are located, is $2,542.

Making matters worse, 1,700 low-in-come housing units at 37 sites, in addition to University City Townhomes, currently have Section 8 contracts with the City and Urban Development set to expire within the next five years. Housing activists fear many owners of those properties will sell to developers rather than renew their HUD contracts.
Boston

Starbucks Workers United strikes against unfair labor practices

By Mairread Skehan Gillis

Striking members of Boston Starbucks Workers United made U.S. labor history this week, shutting down their store at 874 Commonwealth Ave. at Boston University for seven days, in protest of what SBWU calls a pattern of management’s new union-busting, racist and transphobic unfair labor practices. Only a month after voting to join Workers United, the workers walked out on July 18, setting up a picket line and command center at the store’s locked door, staffed 24/7 by the union workers and shifts of hundreds of labor and community supporters, stopping all deliveries and potential scabs. In a July 18 letter to management, union leaders reported that Starbucks instigated the strike “immediately after our store voted to unionize … We have been subjected to not only a slew of unfair labor practices on the local and national level (threats, overly restrictive policies, denial of benefits, changes in operations) but also a chaotic and hostile work environment.” The letter describes “illegal threats of discipline or termination,” arbitrary dress-coding, aggressive cuts to hours, extreme understaffing, weekly unilateral changes to work schedules and “offensive rhetoric with regard to race, gender and orientation” of workers and customers. Strikers on the picket line spoke most angrily about the manager taking down their LGBTQ+ rainbow flag, which now adorns the locked door. The striking workers are calling for a more inclusive work environment free from unfair labor practices, where they are treated with dignity and respect by management, with livable schedules and wages paid by the super-profitable corporation. The workers are adamant about not returning to make coffee until their demands for respectful treatment in the workplace are met. The brutal heat wave did not deter shifts of supporters from joining the picket line at two rallies July 19 and 24 called by the Greater Boston Labor Council. Chanting “What’s Disgusting? Union Busting! What’s Outrageous? Poverty Wages!” hundreds of union activists, baristas from regional Starbucks, socialists, organization students from neighboring universities, local politicians and candidates have come to pledge their support. Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751; Painters Union, District Council 29; Teamsters Local 25; the Boston Teachers Union; Harvard dining hall workers, UNITE HERE Local 26; UAW graduate students and clerical workers; MIT Graduate Students Union; and the Brookline Educators Union have provided daily sound systems, food and water, entertainment and first aid supplies. The Greater Boston Labor Council brought a free ice cream truck to the “MegaPicket” on Sunday, July 24. Throughout the week there were performances out on the block, from live revolutionary music sung by Workers World member Kristen Turgeon, to speeches given on the sound track, to karaoke sing-alongs led by striking workers. These efforts helped build momentum and enthusiasm on the picket line as the strikers moved into their second week of the shutdown. Mobile teams led by SBWU local organizers made stops at the other Starbucks locations in the district to converse with their co-workers on shift and extend their solidarity and assistance, both at unionized and not yet unionized stores. As the corporation threatens to recruit scab workers and reopen the struck store, it is of utmost importance to urge local customers and baristas to not cross the picket line but rather to pledge to join the movement, defend the strikers and organize the staff at all locations. Updates on the strike are regularly posted on the Boston Starbucks Workers United Twitter page (@BostonSBWU). Resources are shared on the SBWU website at sbwworkersunited.com. These include a #NoContractNoCoffee pledge for allies, who can “take the lead from workers and respond to workers’ calls for action to further their campaigns,” as well as a contact form for Starbucks partners who are ready to begin organizing at their own stores. The rallying message chanted from the picket line is a reminder to all that “The people united will never be defeated!”

Three new wins for Cleveland Starbucks workers, third is 200th countrywide

There are now over 200 unionized Starbucks stores in the U.S. Number 200 was the University Circle store in Cleveland, where Starbucks Workers United won a union representation election when ballots were counted July 22. Dozens of union supporters had demonstrated outside the store July 15 (shown in photo) to back the union drive and protest the firing of a union organizer by Starbucks. This was the third win of the week for Cleveland Starbucks union supporters. Two other stores, one in Cleveland Heights and one on Cleveland’s West Side, were certified as voting unanimously for the union July 19. They followed a downtown Cleveland store that won its union election May 24, also by unanimous vote. As protesters chanted July 15, “Cleveland is a union town!”

One-day strike in Philadelphia

By Marie Kelly

Workers at a Philadelphia Center City Starbucks store held a one-day strike July 22 to protest union-busting tactics by management. The strike began before 6:00 am and lasted into the evening rush hour. Workers formed a picket line at noon and were joined in solidarity by Teamsters union members, who brought the giant inflatable “Scabby the Rat,” symbolizing Starbucks management. The 22nd and Walnut Streets coffee shop is one of five Starbucks locations in the city that won their union elections. Ballots for that store were counted in June. There are now over 200 union stores nationwide.

High Tech, Low Pay
A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class
By Sam Marcy
With an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of Low Wage Capitalism. Available at workers.org/books.

Low-Wage Capitalism
By Fred Goldstein
Describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.

Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era
By Fred Goldstein
Available at major online booksellers.
On the picket line

By Jim McMahan

Seattle

Workers fight back against Starbucks’ attacks

Starbucks, headquartered in Seattle, is trying with a vengeance to halt the unionization of some of its prime stores. Workers are countering Starbucks’ union-busting attacks with strikes and solidarity.

Starbucks, with billionaire prime stockholder and CEO Howard Schultz at the helm, recently announced the closing of five Seattle stores – two of which were unionized. One of the stores, at 23rd and Jackson Streets, is in the heart of the Black community. Along with another Black neighborhood store which was closed earlier in the pandemic, Starbucks has almost completely divested from Seattle’s Black community – yet it claims to be a community supporter.

Starbucks closed a newly unionized store in the center of the LGBTQ2S+ community. All the stores being closed were doing a good business; their closure was just crude union busting.

On the weekend of July 15-17, Starbucks workers walked out, holding collective workplace actions against union busting at four Seattle stores. This was a repeat of strikes held the previous weekend. Almost 100 workers struck and walked the line at the Roastery on July 17. This store takes in $50,000 to $60,000 on an average weekend.

Solidarity was strengthened after a big picket line of UNITE/HERE workers only a half-block from the Roastery earlier in July. Starbucks workers supported the demonstration by newly unionized sandwich makers, who were demanding a fair contract at the 10-store Homegrown Sandwich chain.

Italian government arrests militant unionists

By Martha Grevatt

Six union leaders were placed under house arrest in Piacenza, Italy, in the early morning hours of July 19, under orders from the local prosecutor’s office. Two are members of USB (Unione Sindacale di Base), and four belong to SI Cobas, two militant unions that represent workers in the logistics sector and have waged strikes recently against Amazon, FedEx and other firms.

According to SI Cobas, “this accusation allegedly stemmed from strikes conducted in Piacenza’s logistics warehouses from 2014 to 2021. According to prosecutors, these strikes were carried out with specious motives and with ‘extortionist’ intent, in order to obtain better conditions for workers than those provided by the national contract.” (sicobas.org, July 21)

The advance of the capitalist crisis, and the growing social malaise following the war economy and the high cost of living, produce an ever more stringent offensive against the workers and in particular against the trade union and social avant-garde of struggle,” said USB.

Immediately the two unions called for protests, sit-ins at government offices, marches and solidarity strikes in the logistics sector. Unions in numerous Italian cities heeded the call.

The USB is affiliated with the World Federation of Trade Unions, whose affiliates around the world, along with the WFTU central office in Athens, Greece, have condemned the anti-union repression. Unions in Indonesia, Argentina, Palestine, Greece, Cyprus, Russia, the Spanish state and India have sent messages of solidarity to USB and SI Cobas, demanding the charges be dropped.

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Harrisburg postal union gains new members

The top truck drivers at the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, location of 10 Roads Express have joined to form the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). The 10 Roads Express is the largest trucking firm contracted by the U.S. Postal Service to haul mail; 1,000 10 Roads Express workers have unionized with APWU.

APWU President Mark Dimondstein praised the tremendous efforts of the Harrisburg organizing team, who stood firm against anti-union intimidation tactics. Bill Hamilton, an 18-year mail-haul driver said, “Most important is that we don’t accept anything with anything less than the dignity and respect that we, as professional drivers, deserve.” (apwua.org)

Club dancers unionize to fight misogynist management

The strippers at Star Garden in Los Angeles voted to unionize last March and are negotiating with management to get union recognition. This comes after weeks of protest over the similar firing of two dancers after they raised safety concerns. One of the dancers was threatened by a customer, and management ignored her demand for increased security.

As sex workers, the dancers want guarantees they will be provided adequate protection against misogynistic threats. The Star Gardens strippers have filed five Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board. The dancers have joined the Strippers United union, founded by Antonia Crane in 2018.

Cane formerly worked at the Lady Lady strip club in San Francisco, when the dancers there unionized with Service Employees (SEIU) Local 790 in 1997. She hopes the victory of the strippers at Star Garden will spur other club dancers to organize. The solidarity and strength of a union can forcefully challenge the current misogynist climate – epitomized by the Supreme Court’s attack on reproductive justice – and validate an individual’s bodily autonomy.

Harriman postal worker fights back against union-busting attacks

APWU President Mark Dimondstein praised the tremendous efforts of the Harrisburg organizing team. The workers loved their jobs and had developed a strong camaraderie. When the workers decided to organize with the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers (UE) and make demands for better pay and scheduling, the community showed support.

The bosses, however, decided to pull the plug, close up shop and fire all the workers in July 2020. What happened next shows the power of solidarity among workers. The staff reopened as a worker-run coffee shop, called the Slow Bloom Coffee Cooperative and organized as SBCB Local 1011 of UE. Now business aspects like expenses and profits are transparent.

Erik Lopez, who works at Slow Bloom, was one of the organizers who had worked at Angie’s. He says the two work environments are like night and day. Now there is no discrimination around scheduling, and tips are shared equally. The shop has no bosses, so workers are not subject to harassment by supervisors, who often target transgender or immigrant workers and put them on low-traffic shifts with scanty tips.

By dividing the tips, the workers at Slow Bloom show that everyone is valued equally. Everyone works hard, but sometimes a worker needs a break; being a few minutes late for your shift will not see you summoned into the boss’s office. The coffee co-op is doing well, but it was a hard road to get there.

Lopez can relate to the current Starbucks union wave and urges baristas to stand strong: “Keep it at it, man, and don’t stop. I know there are a lot of tactics the boss can use, like stalling workers until they give up. Keep at it; have your co-worker’s back and outlast them.” (thestrikewave.com)

UAW on strike in three states

Close to 1,700 United Auto Workers (UAW) members are on strike. In Monessen, Virginia, members of UAW Local 2818 have been striking General Dynamics since July 2. General Dynamics is a major military contractor. UAW members at two Case New Holland facilities are entering their third month on the picket line, after contract negotiations in which the company failed to meet union demands. Case New Holland workers manufacture bulldozers and other heavy industrial vehicles. The 600 Racine, Wisconsin, and the 440 Burlington, Iowa, plant workers are determined to win.
Fire and ice, yet politicians still sleep

By Paddy Colligan and G. Dunkel

No imagining is needed to picture what global warming/climate change might look and feel like. Millions of people in the Northern Hemisphere are currently living it. This is an extraordinary summer. Wildfires still record temperatures in Europe, grass fires in London and widespread and deadly wildfires in Portugal, Spain, France, Turkey and in the drought-ridden U.S. West. Temperatures over 100 F are affecting the U.S. as well as several European countries, where this phenomenon now affects 70% of the new power plants. These are_motor equipment, food and water are compromised in the attacks.

A section of the Marmolada Glacier in the Italian Alps collapsed July 3, unexpectedly releasing a powerful avalanche that killed 11 people and swept a hotel across the border into Switzerland. That glacier is showing signs that another section of it may further collapse before the end of this extraordinarily hot summer.

A similar glacier collapse occurred a week earlier in Kyrgyzstan in the Tian Shan Mountains. Fortunately hikers escaped with their lives and video capturing its stunning potential as it tore through the valley.

Glacier collapses are happening due to intense heat waves and lack of winter snowfall. Bob Berwyn, reporting for Inside Climate News, concluded such unpredictable events “could become more frequent and widespread as global warming intensifies heat waves and deprives the ice fields of the snow needed to replenish them. On average, high mountain areas are warming at least twice as fast as the rest of the planet.” (insideclimatenews.org, July 19)

The role of ice

What is happening in the polar and alpine regions of the Earth is of great concern. Ice is critical to establishing and regulating conditions of a habitable planet. It regulates the temperatures of the atmosphere and the oceans, governs weather patterns and sea levels. When glaciers and sea ice melt, sunlight is absorbed by the land or water they used to cover. This sets up a feedback loop that further accelerates summer melting. (tinyurl.com/ajakdfhv)

There are two ice sheets – the Greenland Ice Sheet in the Northern Hemisphere and the Antarctic Ice Sheet in the Southern Hemisphere. They hold about 70% of the world’s fresh water and are critical to sea levels and ocean currents. The rapid or sudden collapse of sections of these ice sheets could result in the submersion of low-lying islands and even much of the world’s inhabited coastal regions.

The changes in ocean salinity and temperature have already impacted marine life and global weather patterns. People living on the Arctic coast are experiencing changes to their subsistence lifestyle and destruction wrought by intensified storms. Changes are being felt in the Western Europe’s historically moderate weather, with intensified summer heat and winter cold, as well as changes in precipitation and storm frequency affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in this region.

Mountain glaciers

Besides the glaciers that extend out from the ice sheets, there are inland glaciers in mountain ranges, as the two examples noted above. Even though mountains glaciers represent only 4% of the world’s land ice area, about half a billion people depend on these water resources. (tinyurl.com/y3q44y)

The disappearance of these water resources would trigger major migrations.

In the Andes Mountains in the Southern Hemisphere, 98% of the glaciers have lost ice, more than any others globally relative to the size of the region. The water they supply is vital to the people living in nearby cities. Farmers in the area depend on the glaciers for some of their water for drinking, irrigation and hydroelectric power, especially those who live in arid areas or who are experiencing drought. (tinyurl.com/28g3anpp)

In the Himalayas, global warming has meant that the glaciers receive less snow, but so do the areas around them with both good and bad effects on agriculture. The positive effects of longer growing seasons and temporary possibilities of irrigation in these high-altitude farming areas are likely to soon be offset by disappearing glaciers, as greenhouse gases continue to heat up the planet. (tinyurl.com/y7vq9n4)

Beyond these mountain areas, the flow from these glaciers is essential to feeding river systems like the Ganges, on which millions and millions of people downstream are dependent.

U.S. Senate fails once again July 15

The United States is one of the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Biden administration wanted the Senate to pass a bill to seriously reduce this amount.

In the grand tradition of bourgeois politics, all sorts of compromises and deals were proposed to get the Build Back Better Act, or indeed any sort of response to the climate crisis, passed. Without generous tax credits, the transition to electric vehicles would be slowed and the goal of having half the new cars sold in the U.S. being electric by 2030 would not be met. Yet corporate plans go forward to produce new and toxic open-pit lithium mines in the U.S. for the needed battery components, despite opposition by affected Indigenous communities, environmentalists and conservationists. (tinyurl.com/yckzph2z)

The amount of coal used in producing electricity in the U.S. has fallen dramatically, since natural gas is far cheaper. But per capita emissions are far higher than they are in Europe, which uses far more renewable energy sources. China has almost three times the renewable capacity of the U.S.

The changeover to wind and solar power and the improvement of battery storage technology would be completely undercut – “kneecapped” according to the deliberate assertion of the American Clean Power Association – while the rest of the industrialized world continues to push their development forward.

But all the entreaties and deals didn’t move the Democratic senator from the coal industry or the two Republicans. None of them wanted to risk the ire of their donors or be charged with contributing to inflation by not promoting the production of more coal.

The reaction in the U.S. environmental movement to this failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s movement to this failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s failure to pass the bill was split. The old, established NGOs like the Sierra Club pointed out that the Biden administration still had a lot of administrative options, even though the Supreme Court’s
Biden’s COVID-19 challenge

The Joe Biden administration has the following plan for dealing with COVID-19:
1. Accept as normal 420 extra deaths each day, that is, 150,000 a year; 2. Assume that most of the deaths and much of the severe symptoms will stay concentrated in the older, poorer and more oppressed sectors of the population; 3. When it hits richer and more powerful people — like Biden and other members of his administration — make sure they get antiviral medicine and the best supportive care, even if others can’t; 4. Hope that the number of serious cases is small enough that hospitals avoid collapse — but take no steps to expand COVID-19 care or other medical care to the general population; 5. Claim everything is under control, whether it is or not. Go back to business as usual, without government mask mandates, without continued mobilization to distribute vaccines, without establishing and facilitating public health protocols — such as testing and tracing needed to confront the next variant and the next pandemic; and 6. Blame China for establishing strict local quarantines and especially for shutting down business. There is a near insistence that People’s China allow the virus to spread as it has in much of the rest of the world, even though this would likely lead to millions more extra deaths a year.

As numerically as the scenario is, it’s possible that a virus variant develops that throws the world into even worse chaos. But for the moment, put that thought aside.

The Democratic administration’s approach to the pandemic seemed reasonable in 2021 — but only in comparison to its predecessor. The Trump gang’s plan consisted of denial of the problem and scorn for science — unless they themselves got sick. Even then they were willing to try dangerous pseudo-cures.

The unraveling of both big capitalist parties’ protocols for coping with COVID-19 and its variants reveals much about the inability of the capitalist system to protect and improve human life. This is all-the-more proven, as the inability has been duplicated by nearly all the governments in the imperialist world. That’s true even for those countries where a strong workers’ movement had historically won a more humane health delivery system. The highest value under capitalism is to maximize profits. How the working class worldwide fares, whether they even live, the ruling class dismisses as trivial.

This can be seen in how the imperialist ruling class confronts the challenge of the pandemic, the climate crisis, economic instability and even imperialist war. Their main goal remains maximizing profits. Whatever suffering this goal causes, they try to impose on the Global South and on the working class. They do this even when it puts their own safety at stake. The COVID-19 crisis proves this.

The ruling class has long ago lost any ability to positively guide the fate of humanity.

The alternative is to give priority to improving the conditions of the poorest and most oppressed sectors of the working class — along with that of the entire planet — which will improve and protect the lives of the greatest part of humanity. This can only be done in a system where the drive for maximizing profits has disappeared. The system needed is socialism.

Ukraine: Will U.S. sabotage grain deal?

Continued from page 1

agricultural exports. Battles continue even in the immediate area of Odessa. But the agreement provides a gap in the sanctions that have blocked Russian grain from world markets.

The deal also allows unimpeded access of Russian fertilizers to global markets. Russia is a major producer of fertilizers, which are vital to maximizing food production.

The ships will be monitored by a U.N.-led joint coordination center, which will be established immediately in Istanbul and include representatives from Ukraine, Russia and Turkey. (tinyurl.com/2u3swd9p)

According to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, 85 ships at Odessa’s seaport were full of grain, with 20 million to 25 million tons of grain nearby in silos. The Port of Odessa is one of the largest ports in the Black Sea basin.

The city of Odessa is a large industrial center, with well-equipped docks and ship-repair yards, a wide range of engineering industries, chemical industries, oil refining and food processing.

This agreement to move food to prevent famine faces an uphill battle. Ukraine is awash in U.S. military contractors, trainers and mercenary forces. The city of Odessa is controlled by fascist forces. On May 2, 2014, paramilitary forces with Nazi and Ukrainian fascist Bandera symbols massacred anti-fascist protesters who sought refuge at the House of Labor. Their control of the city and the surrounding region continues.

More than 7,000 sanctions

For over five months, the harsh sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the European Union — at U.S. demand — have blocked Russia from exporting grain, fertilizer, oil and gas to the world market. This has created an economic crisis far beyond Russia. Between Feb. 22 and July 20, Australia, Canada, the European Union (EU), Japan, Switzerland, Britain and the U.S. imposed a total of 7,371 sanctions on Russia, including 1,350 entities. The measures included asset freezes and travel bans. (statista.com, July 22)

Sanctions blocked Russia’s Central Bank from accessing more than $400 billion in foreign-exchange reserves held abroad. The G7 countries decided to disconnect several Russian banks from the SWIFT system. This imposition of the most severe sanctions in modern history was intended to cause an economic catastrophe, hyperinflation, uprisings and the collapse of the Russian state.

Russia is one of the largest raw materials suppliers to the world market. Russia has the largest land mass in the world and is grain, protein, fertilizer and energy self-sufficient. The sanctions meant to destabilize and dismember Russia have boomeranged back on the countries that imposed the harsh measures. And the sanctions imposed on Russia have especially impacted Africa, creating spiraling economic dislocation throughout African countries.

Although the U.S. demanded the sanctions on all Russian exports and transactions, including grains, fertilizers and energy, U.S. corporate media and U.S. and NATO politicians have blamed Russia for withholding supplies that the imperialist countries have themselves blocked.

Countries around the world, including most of the countries of the continents of Asia and South America and all those of Africa, have, however, refused to accept or acknowledge the U.S./EU sanctions.

The head of the African Union, Macky Sall, linked U.S. sanctions to the continent’s food shortages. “Anti-Russia sanctions have made this situation worse, and now we do not have access to grain from Russia, primarily to wheat,” Sall continued. “And, most importantly, we do not have access to fertilizer. The situation was bad, and now it has become worse, creating a threat to food security in Africa.” (bloomberg.com, July 3)

What is completely scrumpled from the U.S. media is any mention of the U.S. sanctions that were already imposed for years on 17 African countries. These have had a destabilizing impact on the whole region.

The ruling class with their military and policy planners well understand the impact of their decisions. But to preserve the rulers’ fabulous wealth and dominant position, “the administration is willing to countenance even a global recession and mounting hunger.” (Washington Post, June 17).

Reproductive rights vs. Federalist Society

By Marie Kelly Philadelphia

Protesters gathered outside the Mellon Bank building in Center City Philadelphia July 13 to denounce the Federalist Society meeting there. Society members include the ultra-conservative members of the U.S. Supreme Court, many Republican members of Congress and Amy Wax, a University of Pennsylvania law professor who spouts white-supremacist rhetoric.

Security guards barred their entrance, but protesters set up a sound system to address office workers on their way home, handing out literature against proposed SB106, a constitutional amendment to eliminate the statewide right to abortion.

The DSA-Philadelphia chapter called the action, which was endorsed and attended by Workers World Party-Philadelphia. Members spoke out against the Federalist Society’s right-wing, white-supremacist, anti-reproductive rights and transphobic stance.

July 13, Philadelphia. (PHOTO HELDER RAMOS)
Part 1: Fidel prepares for expanding Southern Front

By Hernán Cano

The author, an Argentine journalist in Venezuela, conducted this interview with Venezuelan Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for the news agency Sputnik in preparation for the July anniversary of the 1979 Nicaraguan Revolution. Its introduction noted that Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein, whose guerrilla father was forced out of Chile by the 1973 coup led by Augusto Pinochet, was at 22, an officer in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces and participated in the last part of the Nicaraguan war for liberation with an international contingent fighting the Sandinista dictatorship and later in the training of the national army. Translation: John Catalanno. The following is Part 1 of 2.

Since that July 20, Nicaragua has been an accumulation of indelible, eternal memories, of enormous happiness that demand a continuous commitment to the revolution. “Just as we [Venezuelans] have [Simón] Bolívar, Nicaragua has Sandino, and that creates an imprint, a way of being and looking at ourselves,” says Rodríguez Gelfenstein.

And he recalls that “It is not in Playa Girón where the tradition of anti-imperialism in America took place, but in Nicaragua [in 1933], when General Augusto César Sandino expelled the invading Yankee army.” Today, four decades after those convulsive years, “Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela have configured, not an axis of evil, but a triangle that continues with the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle,” he emphasizes.

Hernán Cano: How do you connect with the Sandinista Revolution?

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein: My father was imprisoned in the National Stadium in 1975 after the coup d’état against Salvador Allende. Then he left for Peru and could not return to Venezuela, because he had pending cases from when he participated in the guerrilla movement.

Under those conditions and after receiving several offers, he chose to go to Cuba. I was 17 years old, and when I arrived in Havana, I requested military training. Together with a group of Chilean comrades, because I was also Chilean, we received a military training in the Cuban regular army.

It was the period when almost all the Cuban military were going on international missions, in particular to Africa, and many of us were asked to be sent on one of those missions. But Fidel, in his infinite wisdom, said no, we should wait, that the time would come for those of us who were not Cubans.

HC: Excuse me for interrupting. Were you an officer in the Cuban Armed Forces?

SRG: Yes, at that time I was a lieutenant; I was head of an artillery battery, and I was in charge of 64 soldiers, with six 122mm howitzers. And I performed duties like any regular officer of the Cuban army. That was already 1979; I was 22 years old.

HC: Then, your time came with Nicaragua. How did you find out that you were going to fight with the Sandinistas?

SRG: I was returning to my unit from a maneuver at a firing range; it was after 1 o’clock at night and returned with all the weapons to a safe place, with all the security measures in place, it was 1 o’clock in the morning.

When I left everything ready, and the soldiers went to bed, I went to the General Staff of my regiment and reported that everything was in order and everything was safe. And I retired.

When I had walked about 40 meters, an officer came running and told me that I had to return to the General Staff. I thought the worst. And then I was informed that an order had arrived to report to the General Staff of my division, in Havana, at 5 a.m., and that we were going on a maneuver to Camagüey, where the Armed Forces main polygon was located. The order for Somoza to concentrate most of his military force on the Southern Front, loosening the tension on the other guerrilla fronts and allowing the Sandinistas to go on the offensive.

That was Fidel’s great strategic conception. He told us: “You have to go in, advance as far as you can, dig a trench, stay there, resist and create a liberated territory.” That was the mission he set out for us.

HC: When did you arrive in Nicaragua, and what did you find?

SRG: On the 18th I took part in my first combat, a crazy one, because without authorization from the higher command, the leader of a column tried to take a completely bare hill and sent the Sandinista troops to cross the river and advance. And the machine guns swept them away.

I was there directing the artillery fire, and they radioed me the order to withdraw. There were dozens of casualties that day. That was my baptism of fire in the Southern Front, in a context where there were Chilenos, Uruguayans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Sandinista fighters who were being trained in Cuba and who were sent back but subordinate to us. It was a very curious thing, a true internationalist context.

HC: You were in combat for a month until the Sandinista victory — how do you remember it?

SRG: This is a look from the perspective of the knowledge I have today; at that time, I was a low-ranking officer who had a mission to accomplish and did not have the big picture.

At some point it became clear that the stalemate was going to be maintained; we did not have the capacity to break it, but they did not have the capacity to defeat us. Especially because we had open logistics, we had the border with Costa Rica and through there everything could reach us, we could continue supplying ourselves with ammunition, weapons, food, everything.

And as expected, Somoza concentrated, first the EEBL, which was the School of Basic Infantry Training, an elite force whose chief was his son, and then the little aviation that Somoza had was concentrated in the Southern Front, the artillery also — they had a battery of mobile rocket launchers that had been sent by the military of the Argentine dictatorship. It was a month of tug of war, but what Fidel predicted finally happened.
Residentes resisten desarrollos millonarios

Por Joe Piette
Filadelfia

Darlene Foreman, una mujer negra de 60 años y una de las representantes de los inquilinos de UC Townhomes, dijo a la prensa reunida el 11 de julio: “Esta es una lucha por los Townhomes, pero no sólo por los Townhomes”. Es por la gente “de todo el país que se enfrenta al desplazamiento”.

Detrás de ella había unos 50 residentes y simpatizantes que sostienen pancartas o teléfonos móviles mientras ella continuaba: “No voy a ser desplazada. ¿Yo, los residentes de aquí y la gente de todo el país estamos hartos. Así que, si esta lucha se lleva a cabo hoy, mañana, la semana que viene, el mes que viene, el año que viene, vamos a estar aquí luchando”.

En el fondo había unas 158 banderas de campañas, que se instalaron en el césped verde de la propiedad después de una “Fiesta de Protección de la Cuadra” el 9 de julio. Los residentes y los simpatizantes de los activistas de vivienda se están turnando para pasar la noche cerca de la casa de “No nos vamos a ninguna parte”, uniendo se a la resistencia de los residentes.

Durante la rueda de prensa, los organiza- dores anunciaron el nuevo nombre del centro de viviendas, mientras los res- identes cubrían el cartel oficial de cinco metros por cinco metros con su propia pancarta nueva que proclamaba “The People’s Townhomes”.

El día anterior, se colocó una enorme pancarta blanca con letras negras en el tejado inclinado que da a la calle 40 que decía “La vivienda es un derecho humano”. Dominique Walker, de Moms for Housing, dijo: “Estamos aquí para mostrar nuestra solidaridad con los People’s Townhomes. Sabemos de primera mano cómo es el desplazamiento. En Oakland, ha habido muchos desplazamientos de nuestros res- identes negros y otras personas racializa- das. Sabemos que si no resistimos, seguirán haciendo”.

Alyiah Phelps, de Moms for Housing, dijo: “Eso es algo que perdemos cuando se produce la gentrificación: ese sentido de comunidad, ese sentido de pertenencia, ese sentido de seguridad que es tan importante. Cuando se pierde ese, se aca- ban perdiendo otras cosas. La salud men- tal se deteriora, tu red de seguridad, la delincuencia, todo”.

El residente Sheldon Davida dijo: “Este es un lugar especial, donde nuestros niños pueden jugar con seguridad, donde nues- tros ancianos pueden acceder a hospi- tales cercanos. Los People’s Townhomes están situados justo en el centro de la calle 40. El acceso a este importante cen- tro de transporte no es po- ca cosa, ies unas de las razones por las que no nos vamos a ningún sitio!”

Los residentes de UC Townhomes y sus simpatizantes organizaron una marcha “Families4Housing” para dar comienzo a un verano de eventos el 9 de julio. Su concentración permaneció en la calle durante una hora en las calles 40 y Market. Entre los oradores se encontraban la Madre Pam, las dos oradoras de Madres por la Vivienda de California y varios residentes más.

Para aumentar los efectos visuales de la marcha, Spiral Q proporcionó un recorte de un mural de tamaño natural de una escalinata, además de tres pancartas altas que decían: “Recuerdense el legado negro”. Los Townhomes están situados en las periféricas con crecientes índices de vio- lencia y pocos servicios. De vuelta a los Townhomes, una con- centración permaneció en la calle durante la noche. La gente bailó al ritmo de la música de varios DJs. Se instaló un juego de bádminton y los niños disfrutaron haciendo pompones de algodón gigantes.

Cindy Lou pintó la cara de niños y adul- tos. Los participantes recibieron pizza, galletas, agua y helio gratis. La protesta continuó durante la noche con una docena de tiendas de campaña instaladas para los que pudieran quedarse.

Organizaciones como Ifby Books, Mundo Obrero, Iglesias Community Garden, Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, la organización ecologista Thrive, Food Not Bombs Solidarity, Community Action Relief Project, Abortion Liberation Fund de Pennsylvania y Critical Resistance se presentaron en el evento.

Los trabajadores de Starbucks y Amazon necesitan un arco iris de solidaridad de clase

Por Martha Gревatt

“Nos posicionamos como un aliado de la comunidad de lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transsexuales y queer, afirmando todas las formas en que las personas pueden elegir identificarse”. Así dice Starbucks. (stories.

Pero en una tienda de Starbucks tras otra, los trabajadores LGBTQ+ están entre los que votan mayoritariamente por un sindicato (que cubren que los tópicos agradables y “afirmativos” no sustituyen a los salarios y beneficios sindicales, a las condiciones de trabajo, o a la voz en el trabajo). Los trabajadores LGBTQ+ se encuentran entre los organizadores sindicales despedi- dos por Starbucks... lo que para los traba- jadores trans significa perder la cobertura para la atención de afiliación de género, incluida la cirugía.

Una trabajadora trans de Ithaca, Nueva York, fue maltratada por su super- visor y amenazada con perder la atención de afiliación de género si su tienda se sindicalizaba. Amazon es aún más agresivo a la hora del sexismo, la homofobia, la transfobia y todo tipo de odio imaginable -con trágicas ramificaciones, como ejemplifica la masa- cre de Buffalo, Nueva York, sede del primer sindicato de Starbucks- para mantener a los trabajadores divididos.

Lo que necesitan los trabajadores de Starbucks, Amazon y otras muchas empre- sas capitalistas no es una bandera arco iris ondeando en la sede de la empresa. Necesitan la solidaridad masiva de la comunidad LGBTQ2S+, que es mayoritar- iamente de la clase obrera, para resistir.

Asimismo, a la comunidad le conviene unirse a los trabajadores que luchan por un cambio de vida mientras se sigan dejando claro que todos tenemos los mismos derechos. En muchas comunidades de lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, negros y personas racializadas están siendo desplazados a un mercado de la vivienda con cada vez menos vacantes asequibles. Muchos padres y ancianos tendrán dificultades para encontrar una vivienda segura y saludable que ofrezca servicios similares a los de su barrio actual. Según informes ampliamente publicados por Realtor.com, la tasa de vacantes de alquiler en Filadelfia está muy por debajo del 5%, y a los residentes a menudo se les ofrecen unidades en zonas periféricas con crecientes índices de vio- lencia y pocos servicios. Los residentes de estas comunidades negras y personas racializadas están siendo desplazados a un mercado de la vivienda con cada vez menos vacantes asequibles. 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