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Thousands strike Starbucks over anti-LGBTQ+ policies

By Arjae Red

Starbucks workers at over 150 stores in the U.S. are striking with pride in response to the company's decision to ban Pride decorations at many stores across the country. The strike, which kicked off at the roastery location in Seattle, now encompasses nearly 4,000 workers across all participating stores.

The company has even hired Pinkerton agents from the historic union-busting firm, known for its extreme violence and massacres against union workers, to surveil and intimidate picket lines. But this has emboldened the striking workers and removed the progressive veneer the company paints for itself to the public.

Workers World wrote about Starbucks' connections with Pinkerton in an earlier article. (workers.org/2022/08/66051/)

Starbucks bosses claim that there has been no change in policy compared to previous years and that they are leaving the matter to local management to decide how, or whether, to decorate. However, testimonies from management have revealed that regional-level decisions were handed down to local managers instructing them to pull the Pride decorations, including in many stores where



Seattle Roastery workers on strike, June 23.

PHOTO: SEATTLE SBWU

they had previously been allowed to go up.

This has been corroborated by hundreds of shift supervisors and workers across the country, who testify that this is the very first year they've been told they can't display them. Videos have emerged on social media of management taking down Pride decorations which were already up and on display.

It's very obvious to workers and customers alike that there is a difference in policy, and this is the basis for the union's Unfair Labor Practice strike — this was a

unilateral change in policy without first bargaining with workers. Regardless of what the company claims, the observable truth is that Starbucks has made a concerted effort to remove Pride decorations during Pride month, at a time when the LGBTQ+ community is under attack across the country.

'The straw that broke the camel's back'

But the banning of Pride decorations was only the straw that broke the camel's back. There is a history of much more sinister anti-LGBTQ+ actions taken by Starbucks, particularly since the start of the union campaign. The company has zeroed in on many queer and trans workers in cities across the country, targeting them for corporate harassment, write-ups and especially firings. Of the hundreds of workers illegally fired for their union activity, LGBTQ+, Black and Brown workers have faced the brunt of the company's repression.

In addition to firings, Starbucks has leveraged its own benefits against LGBTQ+ workers. Starbucks has offered various types of coverage for gender-affirming health care procedures, which were then held hostage against workers after the launch of the union campaign. Many LGBTQ+ workers were told that if they voted for the

Continued on page 4

Boston groups reject Zionist pinkwashing

By Workers World Boston bureau

In Boston, corporate Pride has been replaced with Zionist Pride. The organizers of Boston Pride 2023 collaborated with the Israeli consulate and other Zionist organizations on a screening of the film "The Holy Closet," which is described as a "celebratory, poignant and often funny presentation of the lives of queer Jews who are reshaping Orthodoxy in Israel." Many organizations in Boston and beyond are acting in solidarity with Boston's Palestinian LGBTQ+ community and resisting the "pinkwashing" of the Israeli apartheid state. Their joint letter is posted below.



June 21 – We are writing as queer, trans, Two Spirit, non-binary, Palestinian, Arab, Black, Indigenous, white, Latinx, and Jewish people living in the Boston area on occupied Massachusetts, Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Wabanaki lands.

We were disappointed to learn that Boston Pride for the People chose to co-host a Pride event with the Israeli consulate and other Zionist organizations. This event, framed as a celebration of the experiences of queer Jewish community members, centers the experiences of queer Israeli settlers living on top of Palestinian villages stolen through violent expulsion and colonialism.

This event is part of a broader strategy of recruiting support for the Israeli state by rebranding itself as queer-friendly in an effort to mask the Israeli state's ongoing violence against Palestinians — known as "Brand Israel." The Brand Israel campaign intentionally markets Israel as a "gay-friendly" country and a gay tourism destination, a strategy that queer Palestinians and those in solidarity have termed "Pinkwashing."

The Pinkwashing narrative that Israel is gay-friendly is not only harmful to Palestinians, it is also disingenuous and false. LGBTQ+ marriages are not legal in Israel. Egregiously, the Israeli military threatens and attempts to extort Palestinians based on private information about their gender, sexual history, and medical needs. This practice, which can include threatening to "out" LGBTQ+ Palestinians, displays the violent character of Zionism that is antithetical to queer liberation.

As Al-Qaws, a queer Palestinian organization, writes: "The open inclusion of gay officers in the Israeli occupation army is used as proof of liberal forward-mindedness, but for Palestinians the sexuality of the soldier at a checkpoint makes little difference. They all wield the same guns, wear the same boots, and maintain the same colonial regime." (alqaws.org, Oct. 18, 2020)

Despite being told why this event would be harmful, Boston Pride for the People (BP4TP) still chose to co-sponsor it with the Israeli Consulate. While professing to be progressive and inclusive of oppressed communities, BP4TP has chosen through its sponsorship of this event to exclude Palestinian queers and their allies, including other Indigenous people, members of other communities of color, and anti-Zionist Jews from the local LGBTQ+ community.

The harm behind this event is further

illustrated by the actions of its cosponsors. For example, Combined Jewish Philanthropies actively funds Israeli settlement projects and has provided \$661,100 to the Boston Police Foundation. Wider Bridge, whose events have been protested across the country, explicitly aims to build support for the state of Israel among queer communities in the U.S.

Daily violence against Palestinians

This event, along with all pinkwashing and Brand Israel events, obfuscate the daily violence committed against Palestinians. This week, nearly 100 Palestinians were wounded and six were killed by Israeli forces invading Jenin (in the occupied West Bank).

Just last week the Israeli state raided the Ein Beit Al-Mai refugee camp in the city of Nablus, demolishing a home, injuring six Palestinians, and killing 20-year-old Palestinian Khalil Yahya Anis. At least 170 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of this year, at least 21 of them children.

As queer and trans people, and colonized people who are allies of the queer and trans struggle, we know that our history is a history of struggle and resistance. We are still resisting attacks on trans youth and violence against Black and Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Our struggle is also against imperialism and colonialism.

Upon their arrival to Turtle Island, European colonizers not only attempted to destroy Indigenous connections to the land; they violently criminalized Two-Spirit, non-cisnormative, non-heteronormative, non-nuclear, non-mogamous experiences, reframing these natural ways of being as "deviant." Resisting transphobia and homophobia means resisting colonialism, solidarity with Indigenous peoples, and rejecting these ideas that have been forced on us.

As Marsha P. Johnson (a leader of the

1969 Stonewall uprising) said, there can be "No Pride for some of us without Liberation for all of us." We cannot claim to support queer and trans liberation while passively or actively supporting Israeli violence and colonialism.

Organizations supporting this letter:

- Adalah Justice Project
- Al-Awda New York
- Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine
- Boston Revolutionary Socialists
- Brown Students for Justice in Palestine
- Catalyst Project
- Communist Workers League
- Eyewitness Palestine
- Falastiniyat
- Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice
- IJAN Spain
- Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
- Jewish Voice for Peace Ohio
- Malaya Movement Massachusetts
- Massachusetts Bail Fund
- Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition
- MIT Coalition Against Apartheid
- Muslims for Just Futures
- North American Indian Center of Boston
- Occupation Free DC
- Palestinian Feminist Collective
- Palestinian Youth Movement Boston
- San Diego Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
- Socialist Unity Party
- Stonewall Liberation Organization
- Students United for Palestinian Equality & Return at University of Washington
- Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine
- United American Indians of New England
- U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights
- Wellesley Students for Justice in Palestine
- Women In Struggle – Mujeres En Lucha
- Workers World Party Boston □

Inconvenient truths confront Biden

For years the U.S. media has repeated unfounded claims that China was suppressing the majority Muslim population in their Xinjiang province. The New York Times, BBC and other major corporate media repeated these lies to justify right-wing politicians seeking to restrict trade with factories in the region, due to their alleged concern over China's purported mistreatment of Muslims.

Alleged repression and even genocide against Muslims in this Chinese province became the source of claims of human rights abuses by China. Only there was never any real proof to back up these stories, and as recent visits to China by Workers World members found — they were fabricated lies. (workers.org/2023/06/71505)

That no governments of Muslim countries ever made similar claims about Xinjiang was ignored by Western media, hardly surprising considering the U.S. has its own long and bloody history of invading and occupying predominantly Muslim countries, as well as its support for Israel's occupation of predominantly Muslim Palestinian lands.

But geopolitics and global economics have a tricky way of working their way back to impact foreign policy decisions. Eager to maneuver India away from its alliance with Russia and China, the Biden administration welcomed Indian Prime Minister Modi to a state dinner at the White House June 22. This, despite Modi's long and bloody history of repression against India's Muslim communities and journalists.

It was obviously of little concern to Biden that Modi is closely linked to fascist Hindu-supremacist groups that violently oppress Muslim minorities. Also overlooked



Hundreds of Indian Americans and their allies held a protest rally at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, DC, against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, June 23.

was Modi's longtime membership in the fascist RSS paramilitary movement, whose early leaders praised Adolf Hitler, seeking to model their religiously pure "Hindustan" state on the Third Reich.

During the state visit, Biden and Modi released a joint statement declaring the U.S. and India as "among the closest partners in the world." The two also signed "deals on defense and commerce aimed at countering

China's global influence." (Reuters, June 22) However, neither Russia nor China were mentioned by name.

The red-carpet treatment was an obvious attempt to drive a wedge between India and its partners in the financial/trade alliance BRICS, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Growing increasingly concerned about developments like BRICS, which threaten the U.S. dollar hegemony, Biden's meeting with Modi was clearly an effort to sabotage the alliance.

Just how successful Biden was is questionable. While agreeing to buy U.S. weapons, Modi refused to criticize Russia or China, refused to go along with sanctions on China and Russia and refused to back away from BRICS. Without a more public offering from Modi, Biden seems to have come away from the table with mere crumbs, plus egg on his face. All the attention given Modi did not sit well with some members of Biden's own party.

U.S. House Reps. Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Cori Bush and Kweisi Mfume boycotted Modi's address. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the U.S.'s largest Muslim civil liberties group, also heavily criticized the dinner and Modi's congressional address. □

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 im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment 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 ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The 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.

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

♦ In the U.S.

- Strike vs. Starbucks' anti-LGBTQ+ policies 1
- Boston groups reject Zionist pinkwashing 1
- The struggle to block Cop City grows 3
- Stop U.S.-NATO war in Ukraine 3

♦ Editorials

- Inconvenient truths confront Biden 2

♦ Noticias en Español

- El impacto de Leslie Feinberg 4

Online articles

♦ In the U.S.

- Queer Liberation March in NYC LINK
- NY Times can't claim Leslie Feinberg LINK
- Leslie Feinberg on Stonewall Uprising LINK

♦ Around the World

- Belarus role in mediating Russian conflict LINK
- A tale of class and two tragedies at sea LINK
- France in Africa: a partial withdrawal LINK
- Assassinations of Philippine revolutionaries LINK
- Smash fascism in Germany & the world LINK
- Media lies about mosques in China LINK

♦ Editorials

- Inconvenient truths confront Biden LINK

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The struggle to block Cop City grows

Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta, Georgia

No doubt, certain corporate leaders and elected officials might have hoped that the June 5 City Council vote to approve the \$67 million from city funds to go to the Atlanta Police Foundation's "Cop City" project would be the death knell of public opposition.

Yet, rather than concede, the grassroots movement of multiple communities and organizations, fueled by the transparent denial of democratic representation by elected officials, has launched a bold campaign to solicit more than 70,000 registered Atlanta voters to sign a petition to get the issue on the November ballot.

Let the people decide!

Prepared to submit the language for a ballot initiative to the city clerk's office within 24 hours of the Council capitulation to the corporate Georgia state Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), members of CopCityVote.com faced three delays by the clerk's office over minor issues that could have been resolved with a phone call.

The impact of this suspicious inaction by a city employee, who finally approved the petition wording on June 22, meant that rather than a full 60 days to gather the nec-



essary signatures, the time was cut to 58. The required 50 days for the city to verify the validity of the signatures remains.

Undeterred, volunteers by the dozens immediately took the approved signature papers into neighborhoods across Atlanta, and as news of the delays created by the city spread, hundreds more people volunteered to canvas.

Two other developments reveal that the unpopularity of the Cop City project is growing. On June 17, the members of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from each of Atlanta's 25 Neighborhood Planning Units, voted to support the ballot referendum and sent letters to Mayor Andre Dickens and the city clerk, advising them of their decision. Dickens and other city representatives have made a concerted effort to get the NPUs to support the project, so this vote to support the referendum says a lot.

Then on June 23, DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston announced her office would not prosecute

cases arising from arrests opposing the militarized training center. Although the land projected for the facility is owned by Atlanta, it is actually in unincorporated DeKalb County. Those charged with "domestic terrorism" or other charges have been held in the DeKalb County Jail, some for months.

Boston's recusal now puts the prosecution of these cases in the hands of State Attorney General Chris Carr, who some credit with first devising the "domestic terrorism" charges for people who are not charged with any specific act other than being in Weelaunee Park, the planned site for Cop City.

One day earlier, Michael Register, head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, resigned after less than a year on the job. Appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp, his office oversaw the investigation into the killing of Manuel "Tortuguita" Paez Terán by Georgia Highway Patrol officers, who took part in a multipolice agency sweep of the Atlanta Forest on Jan. 18.

While there is no bodycam footage of the fatal encounter, gunshot audio captured by Atlanta City police cameras and the family autopsy of Tortuguita's bullet-riddled body offer another version of the official GBI account that the young Forest Defender shot first. The trajectory of the bullet entrance and exit wounds show that Tortuguita was seated cross-legged in his tent with hands raised, palms inward. Register offered no reason for his resignation.

On another front, the Weelaunee Forest Week of Action started June 24 with an all-day gathering of hundreds in Brownwood Park in East Atlanta, offering a variety of activities including music, speakers, food, discussion on various issues including the referendum petitioning, a plant giveaway and children's playtime. The day closed with a memorial to Tortuguita.

Each day has a variety of events including the March for the Forest on June 28, a demonstration at a Home Depot on June 29, protest rallies outside banks on June 30, and marches and a concert on July 1. Skill sharing, art builds and other workshops and activities are included daily. For additional information on the Stop Cop City actions, go to CopCityVote.com or defendtheatlantaforest.org. The Atlanta Press Collective is also a good source for information. □

Message after aborted march on Moscow still

WW COMMENTARY

Stop U.S.-NATO war in Ukraine

By Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl
and John Catalinotto

The announcement June 24 that the private mercenary Wagner Group was marching toward Moscow, with an implied threat to the Russian government, brought joy to U.S. imperialist strategists and their corporate media hacks.

Within 24 hours, however, the march and implied coup were over, at least for now. Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin was reported to be heading to exile in Belarus, and in a statement June 26, he declared that he had no intention to depose Russian President Vladimir Putin. Joy in the corporate media subsided, replaced by the normal anti-Russian propaganda.

That this event exploded and subsided so quickly threw a spotlight once more on the dangers that the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine raises for Russia, Ukraine, Europe and the world. The initial joy of the imperialists illustrates how antiwar and anti-imperialist forces in the NATO countries must react to the events.

Antiwar activists must demand an end to weapons shipments, advisers, and

training missions from the U.S. and its allies to the Kiev regime in Ukraine. This escalating intervention has intentionally prolonged the war and caused so much suffering and so many deaths among Russians and Ukrainians.

The movement in the West must demand an end to NATO and its role as world police for the imperialists' global exploitation of resources and labor.

Washington's strategic goal

Washington's goal, to expand NATO eastward since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, has been aimed at dismantling Russia as a competitor. What the U.S. strategists have written is that they want to turn Russia, the country with the largest land area in the world, into a supplier of cheap ores and energy to the dominant imperialist countries in North America, Europe and Japan.

For the last decade Washington's anti-Russian strategy has focused on Ukraine. Since the February 2022 Russian intervention, U.S. officials have prevented negotiations to end the fighting and have twisted the arms of the European NATO

members, forcing them to feed weapons to the Kiev government and prolong the war.

The U.S. strategists' goal has been to impose a regime on Russia that, like the Boris Yeltsin regime in the 1990s, opens up Russia completely to imperialist penetration and gives no support to countries in the Global South that resist imperialist domination.

Russia is a capitalist country. Its gross domestic product is smaller than Canada's, Italy's or South Korea's. Despite its military power and especially its nuclear weapons, the Russian government had no choice but to evaluate the continued advance of NATO and the right-wing takeover in Ukraine as an existential threat to Russian sovereignty.

The result was what can now be seen as the world imperialists' proxy war in Ukraine. This war has provoked infighting within the Russian state, which the imperialists hope will bring about the same sort of lackey regime in Russia as during the Yeltsin period.

To succeed, the Washington strategists have been willing to sacrifice Ukraine's population and infrastructure, as well as to supply the weapons that kill Russian youths. Should this strategy be successful, it would free Washington to turn its full attention to China.

President Joe Biden's initial announcement last year that economic sanctions would unravel Russia has evaporated, as countries all over the world, especially in the Global South, expanded their business with Russia. But 16 months of war have taken a toll.

The first fault line of this pressure was between the official Russian military and Prigozhin, the CEO of a mercenary company — Wagner group. Prigozhin had been criticizing the Russian army leaders in Ukraine during an extended period. This conflict between Prigozhin and the Russian generals led to Prigozhin's march into Rostov-on-Don, the military HQ of the forces battling in Ukraine and then on to Moscow. This raised hopes in Washington for a coup or even a civil war.

This internal battle in Russia seems to have been quickly averted with Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko's help as mediator. The Wagner Group was pulled back under Russian Military command, and as of June 26, Prigozhin was headed into exile in Belarus.

NATO is determined to continue the war in Ukraine, despite the costs. The responsibility of the anti-imperialist movement in the NATO countries is to oppose the U.S. and NATO role in the war. □



Anti war demonstrators in Times Square, New York City, Jan. 14.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

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Leslie Feinberg
en el desfile Pride
de Syracuse,
Nueva York,
el 15 de junio
de 2013. Una
pancarta pide
la libertad de
CeCe McDonald y
Chelsea Manning
(entonces
B. Manning).



FOTO WW: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

El impacto de Leslie Feinberg en los espacios comunistas y queer

Por Stephanie Frias

"Hay un proverbio africano... Hasta que los leones lleguen al poder, la historia de la caza glorificará al cazador".

— Leslie Feinberg

Como transgénero, marimacho y lesbiana comunista, el trabajo de Leslie Feinberg iluminó las identidades queer, en concreto las identidades de las personas queer de color, que vieron cómo su personalidad sufría una violenta brutalidad ante sus propios ojos. Mientras que el contenido de los teóricos marxistas a veces tiende a ser insular, Feinberg se mantuvo sensible a las luchas de la gente queer de color en todo el mundo.

En una charla pronunciada en la Universidad Estatal de California-Sonoma el 26 de abril de 2008, zie comenta que antes de la bandera del Orgullo, el Frente de Liberación Gay llevaba la bandera de Vietnam del Norte en solidaridad: "Si no defendíamos al pueblo vietnamita, íbamos a debilitar, en primer lugar, a la gente que merecía nuestro apoyo, porque éramos el portaaviones en el que se estaba lanzando la guerra en todos nuestros nombres. Perderíamos la solidaridad con el pueblo vietnamita, y perderíamos también nuestra propia alma política y nuestro movimiento si no adoptábamos una posición de apoyo."

Feinberg creía en el poder de la conexión y la unidad de todos los pueblos oprimidos. Zie comprendió que la liberación no era tarea de una sola persona. Bajo un régimen que pretendía expulsar a quienes experimentaban con la fluidez de su sexualidad y género y a quienes rechazaban las fuerzas regimentadas de una máquina capitalista intolerante, Feinberg siempre aseguró a estas personas que lo que se consideraba "antinatural" era en realidad natural.

En sus propias palabras: "Las mujeres y los hombres transexuales siempre han estado aquí. Están oprimidos. Pero no son meros productos de la opresión. Lo que es históricamente nuevo es pasar. Pasar significa esconderse. Pasar significa invisibilidad. Los transexuales deberían poder vivir y expresar su género... Eso no ocurre hoy". (workers.org/book/transgender-liberation)

A pesar de lo que los medios de comunicación quieren decirte, ser trans no es un concepto nuevo. No nació del vientre de TikTok ni de las redes sociales ni de la "Generación Z". Ha existido durante siglos, atravesando culturas desde los faraones hasta el pueblo Kalapuya del

valle de Willamette o el pueblo Bugis de Indonesia. Son activistas como Feinberg quienes han abierto el camino a la creciente visibilidad de las personas queer, de todas las culturas, que se preocupan por celebrar su género y su expresión sexual.

El capitalismo es veneno

Mi generación está viviendo una época de metamorfosis social. Estamos viendo cómo el capitalismo ha erosionado y destruido todo a su paso. Todo, desde el suelo que pisamos, hasta la raza, el género, la sexualidad, los lugares donde trabajamos y las cosas que elegimos, está inhibido por un régimen anquilosado que depende de nuestra cautividad, de que seamos miserables y estemos subyugados. Es un veneno que roba, culpa y abandona.

Por eso, todo activista que intente dismantelar estas estructuras e introducir la expresión y la pasión debe ser celebrado. Feinberg labró un surco de fluidez que nos permite florecer.

Cada vez que una persona trans se siente lo suficientemente cómoda como para hablar de su experiencia, cada vez que una persona no binaria habla de usar pronombres de género neutro, cada vez que una marimacho se llama a sí misma marimacho, cada vez que alguien se siente lo suficientemente cómodo como para ponerse ropa que tradicionalmente no forma parte de su género asignado, cada vez que alguien habla de su lucha y explora su fluidez de género, es un golpe a la máquina occidental capitalista.

El capitalismo lucha por la homogeneidad; lucha por la complacencia y por la dominación. En su artículo "Muchas historias convergieron en Stonewall", Feinberg amplía esta idea al hablar de la destrucción de las estructuras sexuales y de género culturalmente diversas tanto en las comunidades africanas como en las indígenas. En un mundo que sigue tratando de ocultar a las personas queer de la sociedad, Feinberg luchó por la visibilidad en una época en la que el mero hecho de existir era un acto revolucionario. (workers.org/book/lavender-red)

Como lesbiana, durante mucho tiempo creí que mi sexualidad era una parte arbitraria e inquietante de mi identidad. Lo último que quería era que el mundo me viera como era. No fue hasta que leí "Stone Butch Blues" y las obras posteriores de Feinberg que me enteré de las raíces históricas y materiales de la homosexualidad en la lucha de clases.

"Stone Butch Blues" habla de la cultura de los bares de

lesbianas de los años sesenta y de cómo las marimachos y las mujeres se aliaban por amor y por comunidad. Incluso a pesar de la incesante brutalidad a la que se enfrentaban las marimachos (que a menudo trabajaban como obreras) como personas a las que se consideraba "equivocadas", este dolor les proporcionó una asombrosa unidad.

Travestis, marimachos, mujeres y transexuales trabajaban juntos para protegerse mutuamente. El individualismo no era una opción.

Por supuesto, esto coincidía con los temas obreros del libro. La sindicalización y el poder del número, presentes en las rebeliones de la clase trabajadora, eran temas comunistas fundamentales en "Stone Butch Blues". Personalmente, la obra de Feinberg me ha ayudado mucho a comprender mi lugar en el mundo como socialista, como lesbiana y como mujer de color.

Conciencia y liberación

En el corazón de la verdadera liberación de la opresión está la conciencia. Feinberg, como activista, me hizo consciente del fruto que dan mis identidades sexuales y políticas.

Ser socialista y ser lesbiana son identidades que llevo en el corazón y que se entrelazan profundamente. Cada una de estas identidades tiene que ver con la comunidad, la unidad, el amor, la camaradería y la pasión por oponerse a las cosas que se consideran "naturales" e "inmutables".

Al capitalismo le gusta contar la historia de que estructuras como la dominación racial, la dominación de género (patriarcado y heteropatriarcado) y la dominación de clase son partes predeterminadas e instintivas de la existencia. Que cuando el Estado aprueba leyes fascistas y utiliza la autoridad militar y policial para coaccionar y forzar un determinado status quo, se trata simplemente del mantenimiento de la "ley y el orden".

Esta es una historia que Feinberg trató de desentrañar. A través de una mayor visibilidad de las personas queer, la gente de color y la clase trabajadora en su trabajo, zie reveló con eficacia el impacto cataclísmico de las comunidades queer contra las estructuras capitalistas.

Durante este mes de Pride, mientras el Estado sigue intentando controlar los cuerpos de los demás, es importante recordar el nombre y el impacto de Leslie Feinberg. El trabajo de Feinberg pone en primer plano que otro mundo es posible para los comunistas, para la gente de color y para los miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ2S+. □

Thousands strike Starbucks over anti-LGBTQ+ policies

Continued from page 1

union, they might lose their coverage — the implication being "vote no, or we take it away." Many of these procedures can be lifesaving, and for Starbucks to hold them over trans workers' heads is violent and coercive.

As if the threat of losing health care coverage weren't enough, workers across the country (especially LGBTQ+ workers) have faced huge cuts in hours, with bosses dropping many people under the 20 hour-per-week minimum needed to maintain part-time benefits like health coverage, among other things.

These cuts are a concerted effort to speed up turnover among the workforce, weeding out union supporters. Workers are unable to afford their rent and expenses, many losing health and school benefits, and are taking on huge debts or going without treatment and are ultimately forced to find new jobs.

Union contracts can protect LGBTQ+ benefits

Starbucks has proven it will turn any threat into a promise in order to stop the workers from organizing. But so far, workers have only fought back harder. Workers have made the point that without a contract, any benefits for LGBTQ+ workers can be taken away

with a moment's notice. Only a contract with built-in provisions for LGBTQ+ workers, guaranteed hours among other things, can safeguard these rights at work. Starbucks is still continuing to delay and refuse to bargain with the 300+ stores demanding a contract.

In Seattle, the home of the transnational coffee corporation, Starbucks has simultaneously banned Pride decorations, while paying Seattle official Pride organizers hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove the union's ad against union busting from Seattle's Pride Guide. The ad was created by a trans Starbucks worker who was fired for his union activity, one of many LGBTQ+ union supporters targeted by the company's purges. (workers.org/2023/06/71498)

How is it possible that Starbucks can ban Pride decorations, cut gender-affirming health care, fire LGBTQ+ workers en masse and still they get to take control of Pride publications, march in Pride parades and win awards as a "pro-LGBTQ+" company?

Starbucks previously took a stance of banning "Black Lives Matter" pins and T-shirts, a decision which was later revised after pressure from the public and the workers, after a string of high-profile racist lynchings by police. Starbucks sanitized this messaging and incorporated it into "company-friendly" BLM gear, but the cynical adoption of

these values only makes the hypocrisy of its actions more glaringly obvious when they don't live up to it.

How can Starbucks embrace the movement for Black lives while carrying out racist mass firings of Black and Brown union supporters, including the Memphis 7?

Starbucks is only one of many corporations, like Target, who used rainbow Pride displays to market themselves and make money off the LGBTQ+ community but caved in to LGBTQ+-phobic pressure, when the war against LGBTQ+ people has been ramped up across the country.

These companies aren't interested in championing the cause of LGBTQ+ liberation — they are only interested in rainbow capitalism — they want to use LGBTQ+ identities as a marketing gimmick to advertise their products. But just like Starbucks caves to the pressures of social reaction and removes its rainbow advertisement, they can be pressured by the power of the working class.

If you want to support Starbucks Workers United, please sign the "No Contract, No Coffee!" pledge here: crm.broadstripes.com/ctf/SJIDoH

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