Boston march Oct. 7 to demand:

**Indigenous Peoples Day now!**

**By Workers World Party Boston bureau**

United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and other organizations have called for a march and rally on Oct. 7 to demand that the Massachusetts legislature forever replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

This decades-long struggle of Indigenous peoples in Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims carried out "first encounter" land thefts and genocide, aims to overturn centuries of entrenched racist mythology wrapped up in the triumphalist federal holiday known as Columbus Day.

The 2017 murder of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia, at the hands of fascists, and the police lynching of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, sparked a national wave of actions targeting racist icons, including Christopher Columbus.

On June 10, 2020, a statue of Christopher Columbus in Boston’s North End was beheaded, and statues in Richmond, Virginia, and St. Paul, Minnesota, were similarly targeted. Indigenous organizers succeeded in winning Indigenous Peoples Day declarations in cities and states coast to coast, but not in Boston, where a 1675 law banning Native Americans from entering the city remained on the books until 2004.

**Past time to replace colonial myths**

UAINE and NAICOB witnessed the signing of an executive order replacing Columbus Day in Boston with Indigenous Peoples Day in 2021. “Observing Indigenous Peoples Day is about replacing the colonial myths passed down from generation to generation with the true history of the land upon which our nation was founded,” said Mayor Kim Janey, Boston’s first woman and first Black mayor. Unfortunately, in 2022, incoming Democratic Mayor Michelle Wu bent to political pressure from racists and declared the day “Italian Heritage Day” alongside Indigenous Peoples Day.

Intransigent Massachusetts legislators continue to defend the Columbus myth, holding IPD bills in committee year after year, despite persistent efforts by the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda and thousands of supporters across the state to get the bills passed. The state flag, which depicts a white arm brandishing a sword above an Indigenous man’s head, still flies three years after the legislature voted to change it. Mahtowin Munro (Lakota), co-leader of UAINE and lead organizer for Indigenous Peoples Day Massachusetts, said: “We call on the Massachusetts State Legislature to step up now and pass our statewide Indigenous Peoples Day bill and our other legislation currently before them, including bills to ban Native American team mascots, to provide for Indigenous curriculum content in

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**UAW strikes Big Three all at once**

**By Martha Grevatt
Toledo, Ohio**

For the first time in its 88-year history, the United Auto Workers is striking Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (which includes Chrysler) simultaneously. When the 2019-23 contracts between the union and the corporations expired at midnight, the UAW-represented graduate students at Harvard and UMass Boston held out statements in solidarity with the UAW members. The AFL-CIO and many of its member unions put out statements in solidarity with the UAW strike. UAW-represented graduate students at Harvard and UMass Boston held signs on campus backing the strike. The Teamsters union stated that its members will not make pickups or deliveries at struck plants, and Teamster car haulers will not transport vehicles during the strike. Teamsters President Sean O’Brien reminded the auto companies including working truck drivers. Only a small minority were quiet. Donations of food and beverages began to pile up on the first day of the strike. A recent poll showed that three out of four people in the U.S. were sympathetic to an auto industry strike.

Messages of support are flowing from around the U.S. and globally. The AFL-CIO and many of its member unions put out statements in solidarity with the UAW strike. UAW-represented graduate students at Harvard and UMass Boston held signs on campus backing the strike. The Teamsters union stated that its members will not make pickups or deliveries at struck plants, and Teamster car haulers will not transport vehicles during the strike. Teamsters President Sean O’Brien reminded the auto companies

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**Editorial:**

Bidenomics 10

7, 8 Tear Down the Walls

Protests hit deaths in Rhode Island & Georgia

Attica anniversary

Free Leonard Peltier

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On the picket line ‘Stop the Shock!’

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Racist Philly police officer jailed for murder

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Occupy Wall Street: Tasks for the movement
By Larry Holmes

Excerpted from a talk given by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes at the WWF National Convention in New York City, Oct. 8-9, 2011. Sept. 17 was the 24th anniversary of the start of Occupy Wall Street.

Occupy Wall Street has opened up space. This development, mostly white now, is getting more multinational. It’s growing, and it is affecting oppressed sectors of our class. In the hundreds of cities that are now either engaged in or planning protests, not many of these cities are predominantly African American.

The AFL-CIO endorsed it. Other state labor bodies are endorsing or planning protests, many of these groups where they should support and not take it over unless they are revolutionary militant trade unionists.

There is something very distinct about this occupation. It is not a demonstration against budget cuts. It is not targeting any mayor. It is not a demonstration defending pensions or Social Security or cuts in education.

It is a demonstration against Wall Street. What does Wall Street represent? Capitalism, if you want to make a popular form, a protest against capitalism. They saw that this crisis created an opportunity to have a political demonstration and a political movement.

Anybody who is a veteran of the revolutionary struggle in this country has had to ask themselves: Did we see this coming? Should we have seen this coming? I think we should have seen it coming. The evidence was there: the growth of the movements in North Africa, especially Egypt, and how that spiraled into Europe.

The world has changed. The scientific-technological revolution has changed how people relate to each other, and it has changed politics on a global basis. The world is smaller. Social relations are closer. Europe is not thousands of miles away; it is a click away on a computer. Athens is New Jersey. Spain is the next city. So is Egypt. It is not like it was, even a generation ago. This is what all this technology has done. Even after the brutal exploitation and oppression, the silver lining is that a lot of what is happening has brought us together and given us new weapons to fight the class enemy.

Then there is the radicalization of so many youth and others because capitalism is falling apart.

The comrades who spoke before me pointed out the many contradictions in Occupy Wall Street. One really regrettable part of one of their documents is one of the reasons Black, Latine and Asian people are saying, “I don’t know about this.” They say in it that we’re all equal. Well, that is nice, but I am afraid it is not true.

No, sorry. Racism, sexism, anti-Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer bigotry, classism and all sorts of lesser inequalities mean we are not all equal. We need solidarity with those who don’t have equality to liberate them so that they will have equality.

But despite that and other contradictions, we have to support this movement, help it grow. We have to help it spread. We have to defend it against the state.

In this movement there will ultimately be a left, a right and a center. There will be those who will go into the Democratic Party, into some petty-bourgeois thing, and then there will be those who go to the class struggle, to an anti-imperialist perspective, to solidarity with the oppressed, to socialism — that’s the left. Our job is to strengthen that wing. We have to do more.

Occupy everywhere! Build socialism! Shutdown capitalism! Strengthen the revolution! It may be closer than you think.

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, misogynoy, LGBTQ+ 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 any other — 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 sees no way to get 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 multicultural working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

Since 1930, 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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Seattle ‘Justice for Jaahnavi!’
By Jim McHahan
Seattle
Police officer Kevin Dave was speeding at 74 mph in a 25 mph zone on Dexter Avenue North in Seattle on Jan. 23 when he smashed into pedestrian Jaahnavi Kandula, knocking her body 100 feet and killing her.

Kandula, a 23-year-old graduate student from Andhra Pradesh, India, was attending Northeastern University’s Sept. 14, hundreds of people from the neighborhood march was called by the Seattle Alliance Against Racist TouthliRt Williams, a wood carver from the Nuu-haushaltuw and South Asian community, emphasized:

Director of Indian American Community Services, emphasizes:

Lalita Uppala, Executive Director of Indian American Community Services, emphasizes:

We want justice for Jaahnavi and demand that the SPD officers show respect for all marginalized communities particularly the Black, Indigenous, Latino, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Muslim, Asian and all people of color, the LGBTQ+, the unhoused, those with challenges in behavioral health, special needs and disabilities.” (king5.com, Sept. 17)

The outcry against racist police
Just three days after release of the video footage, on Sept. 14, hundreds of people from the neighborhood where Kandula went to school came out in a multina-
tional protest. They took to the streets and went to the downtown police station. People came out of their apart-
ments to join them. The crowd’s signs read “Jail killer cops!” “End police terror!” and, of course, “Justice for Jaahnavi!”

Two days later, on Sept. 16, members of the Indian and South Asian community held a rally at the scene where the police car crashed into Kandula. They ended with a call for justice. After a meeting with the mayor, police chief, community members sent a clear message that they wouldn’t back down until police are held responsible and justice is obtained.

The outpouring of protest by the Indian and South Asian commu-

nities gives Kandula’s case more meaning because it makes more room for the voices of oppressed people to be heard. The masses’ entry into the struggle always makes a difference.

Indigenous Peoples Day now!

Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World!

By writer-organizers keep the newspaper and its website, news and stories. It contains first-hand accounts by activists and struggles are posted continually. The workers.org, where news and

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lish anti-racist, working-class truth, and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalism and for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported workers.org, where news and books at workers.org/books)

women’s, LGBTQ2S+ and other progressive movements.

Workers World Press depends on its readers’ support! Whether you can donate $50, $100, $200 a year or more? Donating $50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, a copy of the book “What Road to Socialism?” (Download this and other WW books and leaflets at workers.org/books)

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth to more readers. Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Include your name, address and email; write “Supporter Program” on the memo line. Mail to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10012.

We appreciate your help in building Workers World.

While WW’s staff members are volun-
teers, the 12 issues printed and shipped each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read Day in a day to learn about and celebrate Indigenous history and contemporary Indigenous peoples and cultures. It should be only a first step for Boston to begin to build relationships with Indigenous people and begin to address the many injustices faced by us here and elsewhere. It is time for us to stop being ignored and erased.”

“Indigenous Peoples Day in every city, town and village is a day to honor the genocidal conqueror and recognized our process of continental unity and struggle leading to socialism.

We need your support! If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth, and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalism and for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

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Boston’s proclamation two years ago that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day “in lieu of” Columbus Day was a victory for Native peoples, since the U.S. settler-colonial project, which resulted in genocide and the theft and devastation of their lands and cultures, began and continued in what is now the City of Boston’s waterfront Christopher Columbus Park.

Then, in July 1990, representatives from 400 of 120 Indigenous nations from throughout the Americas met in Quioto, Ecuador, at the First Continental Conference on “500 Years of Indian Cultures.” They unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day in 1992 “into an occasion to strengthen our process of continental unity and struggle towards our liberation.” (Tobias, Oct. 11, 2015)

In 1992, Berkeley, California, became the first U.S. city to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day. Since then, more than 14 states, including Washington, D.C., and over 200 cities in the U.S. have declared Columbus Day as Indigenous People’s Day. The movement for recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day began in the 1970s. A delegation of Native nations to the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in Geneva in 1977, first proposed replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day; their resolution passed.

Then, in July 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous nations from throughout the Americas met in Quuito, Ecuador, at the First Continental Conference on “500 Years of Indian Cultures.” They unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day in 1992 “into an occasion to strengthen our process of continental unity and struggle towards our liberation.” (Tobias, Oct. 11, 2015)

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Stop the Shock rally rocks Boston Common

By Brian Shea and Edward Yudovich

Stop the Shock – a coalition of more than 30 organizations in the Disability Justice and Neurodivergent community – organized a rally and press briefing at the Boston Common on Sept. 9. The event succeeded in garnering greater publicity and support for passing House H.480 in the Massachusetts state legislature to outlaw the use of aversion therapy.

Aversion therapy includes skin shocks, pinching, ammonia face spraying, contingent food programs (using food deprivation as punishment), long-term restraints, sensory deprivation, and white noise helmets used primarily against children with disabilities. All of these methods are used at the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC) in Canton, Massachusetts.

Rotenberg is sometimes called today’s Willowbrook, after the infamous state-supported institution for children with intellectual disabilities, which was forced to close due to public outcry in 1972. Similarly, Rotenberg has been shocking disabled children with the graduated electronic deculator for decades. Condemned as torture by the United Nations, the use of GED has been found to be a deadly practice throughout the city and this region, which is attracting people from all over the country to move here and has driven up the cost of housing for city employees and other long time residents who want to live in Durham. (The News and Observer, Sept. 12)

The city can well afford to compensate the Durham workers without raising taxes, according to union organizers. Durham City Council voting on whether to provide relief is circulating. The rally Sept. 18 will coincide with the Durham City Council hearing on whether to provide relief to these union workers.

Virginia Tech workers form unions

On Sept. 5, graduate students, staff and faculty at Virginia Tech university rallied on campus and announced they are forming a union. Two unions have been formed: the Virginia Tech Graduate Labor Union and the United Campus Workers-Virginia Tech. VT GLU is affiliated with the Virginia Education Association. Of the full-time graduate students at Virginia Tech, 84% are employees of the university. UCW-VT is part of the Communications Workers (CWA) and is open to all faculty and staff. Labor law in Virginia puts restrictions on collective bargaining at state-funded schools. The VT workers are the first in Virginia and not on the picket line along with parent and student supporters.

A living wage is the top demand. At an emergency meeting, school board members heard how wage increases are not distributed fairly, with raises going to district central office workers and not teachers and school staff. One teacher explained that every raise she received came with a jump in her health insurance premium.

Kevin Knight, a cafeteria worker, said the only wage increase he has received in his 15 years employment is through stipends provided by the state. Both the superintendent and district superintendent receive a 2% wage increase every year. Their salaries are over $100,000 and $90,000 respectively. (wdsu.com).

UAW strikes Big Three all at once

Continued from page 1

that, “Teamsters don’t cross picket lines.”

Autoworkers in Brazil, Mexico and South Africa have all voiced their solidarity with the auto strike in the U.S.

The 13,000 workers now striking represent almost 10% of UAW members at the Detroit Three companies. UAW President Rory Gamble has stated that workers at more plants will walk out if the companies don’t deliver an acceptable contract proposal that addresses union demands that include higher wages, an end to tiered pay and benefits, a raise in retiree pensions, job security and a shorter work week with no cut in pay.

No more tiers!

Ending tiers — where workers’ pay and benefits vary based on their date of hire — was one of the key issues of concern that Toledo Jeep workers shared with this writer.

In the current contract, workers hired after Oct. 17, 2021 do not get a pension or health insurance when they retire. Temporary or “supplemental” workers are paid even less, have fewer benefits and have far less protection from discipline and firings.

On the shop floor and on social media, rank-and-file autoworkers are expressing a range of views on the strategy of only striking a few plants. Some have the position that “if one goes out, we should all go out.” Others see the need to target plants that make components such as engines or parts of a car because of the impact a strike there would have on the overall corporate supply chain. Assembly plants only build certain products.

However, workers at the struck plants build some of the same components across profitable vehicles. The decision to strike three assembly plants created chaos at Ford and GM because the bosses had products moving off of some engine plants on the assumption that those essential plants would be struck — but weren’t. Some rank-and-file autoworkers describe the situation as a “gang-up” in which the workers are hounded by “management and the UAW agreements that ‘keeps the companies guessing and builds economic leverage against the Big Three” over time as they refuse to negotiate a contract we deserve.” (uaw.org)

The option of striking all the facilities at all three companies has not been ruled out. In the meantime, Toledo workers are loud and proud when they chant, “No contract, no Jeep!”

Countrywide actions on Starbucks Worker Solidarity Day

By Martha Greavatt

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Called by Starbucks Workers United, Sept. 14 was a national day of solidarity with Starbucks workers in their union organizing drive. In the almost two years since Buffalo, New York, Starbucks workers organized the first store, over 300 stores have won union representation elections. Yet the union-busting corporation has not sat down and negotiated a single contract.

Local 1 of the Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 1 conducted petitioning outside a Starbucks store in Cleveland Heights. Most customers were happy to sign the petition demanding Starbucks stop its vicious union busting.

Members of the Buffalo Workers World Party branch came out alongside Starbucks workers and customers this week to support the union effort and educate the community about Starbucks’ war against its workers. Management called the cops, which it has done before, accusing a former Starbucks employee of trespassing. But the union showed it will not be intimidated.

Pride at Work, the LGBTQ+ Constituency Group of the AFL-CIO, organized a webinar on Wednesday, Sept. 14, pointing out that “More than 60% of these workers identify as LGBTQ+. By attacking the workers organizing, Starbucks is attacking queer and trans workers as well.”

Actions took place from coast to coast on Sept. 14. Union strong!
Felony charges against 61 Stop Cop City activists

Movement ‘not afraid’

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

First bulletin, Sept. 11: Atlanta City officials refused to verify signatures in time for the November election in a memo issued by the City Clerk’s office. This development followed a dramatic and exuberant delivery of 16 cardboard boxes holding petitions of 116,000 registered Atlanta voters to have the issue of stopping the construction on the upcoming ballot.

Second bulletin, Sept. 17: Mounting pressure from Atlantans, outraged over the refusal of the City Clerk’s office to verify the 116,000 signatures, caused members of the Atlanta City Council to vote 15-0 to order the first step of the verification process to begin. The leaders of CopCityVote.org are cautiously calling this a victory, inasmuch as the council appealed themselves from mayor Andre Dickens’ obstructionism and obstruction to the corporate-controlled Atlanta Police Foundation.

Undoubtedly, the city law department will attempt to find another legal maneuver, but even the mayor’s closest allies on the Council are tired of being in the hot seat when they have themselves been misled on the details of Cop City. In addition to hundreds of calls during the last week to the City Clerk and Cop City city for a vote in November, national Democratic Party figures like Senator Raphael Warnock and Stacey Abrams and numerous civil rights organizations are urging the city to put the measure on the ballot.

The office of Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr held a news conference on Sept. 5, announcing that 61 people, previously arrested for activities opposing the construction of a massive militarized police training facility known as “Cop City,” have been charged with violating the state’s Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). People may be more familiar with the federal RICO Act which originally targeted the Mafia and other organized crime enterprises. Georgia passed a more far-reaching version in 1980, which most recently has been employed in Fulton County District Attorney Paul Wills to indict four Atlanta police officers and 18 others for illegally attempting to overturn Georgia’s 2020 presidential election results.

Carr, a Trump supporter who has said he would seek the governorship in 2024, had previously charged some of the same defendants with “domestic terrorism.” Among those charged with terrorism are three people who distributed a leaflet that named the Georgia State Patrol officer involved in the killing of Forest Defender Manuel “Tortuguita” Terán in January.

Another 23 activists were arrested on the grounds of a family-friendly music concert on March 5, far from the construction site. The officers claimed Irizarry was involved in the construction equipment was damaged. The 23 were terrorized by heavily-armed police and then selectively arrested, especially targeted if they were from out of state. Organizers of a bail fund, whose home was raided in May by a SWAT team, were arrested around that time for “money laundering.”

People who received reimbursements of $12.91 for 14 tickets show solidarity with those arrested. People are volunteering to defend those indicted. Other bail funds are stepping up to secure the release of those facing a mandatory five years in prison if convicted on the RICO charges.

Solidarity growing

Statements of solidarity and outrage at the threat to civil liberties — including the rights to protest and free speech — have poured in from across the country. Lawyers are volunteering to defend those indicted. Other bail funds are stepping up to secure the release of those facing a mandatory five years in prison if convicted on the RICO charges.

Justice for Junito!

By D. R.

Bulletin: Mark Dial, the Philadelphia police officer who killed Eddie Irizarry Jr. was arrested on Sept. 8, and charged with first-degree murder and murder. Dial was jailed Sept. 10 after his $500,000, bail covered by the Fraternal Order of Police, was revoked.

There were just five seconds between when police officer Mark Dial got out of his police car and when he shot and murdered Eddie Irizarry Jr. on the summer afternoon of Aug. 14, in the East Kensington section of Philadelphia. Another state-sanctioned murder leaving a family reeling with anger and confusion and the Philadelphia community searching for answers.

These are not irregular circumstances. This is the role of the police — to protect property, business and corporations, to suppress working-class and revolutionary movements and the senseless killing of colored people throughout the world.

Eddie Irizarry Jr. was a 27-year-old Puerto Rican man who came to the United States seven years ago. His family, who affectionately called him Junito, describes him as a young man who enjoyed reggae-ton, fixing cars and dirt bikes. He spoke and understood little English and struggled with mental health issues, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, according to his father and sister. His family noted that he was a good person, protective of his sister and helpful to his community.

The spirit of resistance to this attack on the right to dissent was evidenced again Sept. 7, in a multi-racial demonstration gathered outside Carr’s office across the street from the State Capitol.

The Movement to Stop Cop City is fueled by the unabated deaths at the hands of police, including 62-year-old church deacon John Boom, who was chased to death following a minor traffic accident on Aug. 11, and six deaths in six weeks at the Fulton County Detention Center, the latest being a 24-year-old Shawndre Delmore from cardiac arrest (!) on Sept. 3.

These tragedies converged with the continuing pollution of the South River by the clearing of thousands of trees at the Cop City site and the ongoing media lies and political attacks from the Atlanta Police Foundation, intended to whitewash the expansionary and racist purpose of the police-training facility.

Multipronged resistance

On another front in the Stop Cop City campaign, on Sept. 11 petitions containing over 116,000 signatures of registered Atlanta voters to put canceling the lease and all agreements concerning Cop City on the ballot were delivered to the Atlanta City Clerk’s office. There were more than twice the number of signatures required to get the ballot initiative approved, leaving no question of the people’s opposition to Cop City.

However, the method of verifying the signatures as those of valid voters has come under scrutiny as the term “exact match” has been raised by city officials. Handwriting can change as people age or under varying conditions. For example, most signatures were gotten in outdoor settings on a clipboard during some of the hottest days of the summer.

CopCityVote.com will be monitoring the signature checking closely, given the history of this method being used to deny the right to vote to communities of color and in poor and working-class neighborhoods.

This remarkable, sustained opposition to Cop City over more than two years reflects the capacity of a broad-based, politically defined grassroots movement to alter the relations of power between the police and the people.

For more information, go to stopcopcity.org, Community Movement Builders on instagram, or southriverga.org.

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The summer of 2023 was recorded as the hottest summer for the rest of our lives. (today.duke.edu, July 24)

The thought of increasing summer temperatures is scary for many working-class and oppressed people who are directly impacted. Many UPS drivers have died as a result of heat exhaustion and lack of air conditioning. In late August, one 57-year-old Teamster died from heat exhaustion and lack of air conditioning, but without representation, they cannot speak out without the risk of being fired.

The summer of 2023 faced the possibility of a major nationwide strike led by the Teamsters against UPS. The strike was averted when a contractual tentative agreement was reached in late July. One of the major victories of the agreement between the Teamsters and UPS is for the company to require in-cab air conditioning in most UPS delivery vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2024.

Heat is detrimental for other workers, as well. Many migrant workers and incarcerated workers are especially impacted by high temperatures.

Wildfires and other disasters

The summer of 2023 also had an epidemic of wildfires in Canada that are still raging. The fires started in late April in the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, displacing more than 30,000 people at their peak.

Wildfires also plagued working class and oppressed people in Hawai‘i, particularly Native Hawaiians, this summer. While no one knows the definite cause of the fires in Hawai‘i, many experts say that the wildfires’ devestation is due to a mix of high temperatures, strong winds from a Category 4 storm near the islands, and drought conditions that dried out grasses, all of which are undoubtedly tied to the climate crisis. (Time, Aug. 15)

Information also came out implicating the privately owned utility Hawaiian Electric, which left its poorly maintained power lines running despite the threat of fire. Preliminary data have identified critical faults in other Hawaiian Electric lines at the sites of the major fires.

Technology and automation, including artificial intelligence (AI), can be helpful to advance material conditions of the working class, but only if the devices, gadgets and programs are owned and operated by the working class. Under capitalism, technology and automation, especially AI, are a disaster for working people and have a reputation of being job killers.

In contrast to capitalist countries, technology in socialist countries, such as China and Cuba, is used to benefit people. While capitalist countries use technology to help the wealthy few, Cuba sends doctors around the world. China is expanding green technology at home while assisting with the building of infrastructure in many African countries, with the use of technology.

There are forces on the right who deny the existence of the climate crisis, but their ignorance only benefits the class interests of billionaire industrialists and big business.

It isn’t beyond the scope of our imagination to believe that this might be the coolest summer for the rest of our lives.

– Otis Grotewohl
Rhode Island

Protesters demand an end to prison deaths and torture

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

In the last five weeks, five inmates have died while being held at the mas- sive Providence County Jail. After the September 12, 2022, seven people have died while being detained there.

“Though many people in the U.S. support death and destruction without being aware of it. They indirectly support the killing of our people without ever having to look at the corpses.” — Assata Shakur

“Too many people in the U.S. support death and destruction without being aware of it. They indirectly support the killing of our people without ever having to look at the corpses.” — Assata Shakur

The people united will never be defeated!

The protesters from DARE, along with their allies and activists, concluded by chanting, “We’ll be back!”

In the days following, members from DARE were able to disrupt and confront Gov. McKee during a public meeting of his Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force. For a detailed report, go to tinyurl.com/pny3ymw.

From Sept. 27-29, Brown University will host a symposium, Voices of Mass Incarceration, featuring Pam Africa, Julia Wright, Johanna Fernandez and the exhibition “Mumia Abu Jamal: A Portrait of Mass Incarceration.”

The people who have been named in this article were Black and poor and were challenged in some cases with mental health issues for which this profit-driven system provided no care or solutions.

Death toll mounts at Fulton County Jail

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

In the last five weeks, five inmates have died while being held at the mas- sive Fulton County Jail in Atlanta. Since September 2022, 2022, 15 people have died while being detained there.

“The sound of the people pounding on the doors for help at the ACI.”

Seven wooden coffins, along with cardboard headstones and photos, displayed the names of the deceased, as banners and placards were hoisted to visibly expose the deaths by medical neglect, tor- ture and rampant disregard for the lives of those incarcerated at the ACI. The grief, loss, rage and revolutionary fervor were palpable as the militants protested se- cured death figures behind the ACI-Massachusetts Solidarity With Incarcerated Workers (SWI), the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Workers World Party. They were led by a banner emblazoned with a message: “The sound of the people pounding on the doors for help at the ACI.”

The marchers represented Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) and the Behind the Walls committee, alongside community and family mem- bers, allies and activists from the CIC, Providence, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts Solidarity With Incarcerated Workers (SWI), the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Workers World Party. They were led by a banner emblazoned with a message: “The sound of the people pounding on the doors for help at the ACI.”

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Survivors of 1971 rebellion demand: ‘Shut down Attica!’

By Monica Moorehead
New York City

The Attica Brothers Foundation (ABF) organized an event at Trinity Church in New York City on Sept. 9 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the horrific uprising of prisoners. Participants in the uprising were murdered and tortured by guards, state troopers and the National Guard at the notorious Attica Correctional Facility on Sept. 13, 1971.

Prisoners were forced to take guards hostage to present to the world their righteous demands to be treated as workers and human beings. The official report stated that 32 unarmed prisoners and 11 guards were shot to death.

Wearing “Attica is all of us” shirts, Attica brothers, including Che Nieves, Akil Lawrence Killebrew, Carlos Roche and Tyrone Larkins, spoke eloquently about surviving the massacre and continuing the fight for social justice for people inside and outside the walls. A main theme of the program and an ongoing campaign of the ABF is to shut down Attica once and for all.

The program also featured a presentation by author Heather Ann Thompson, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, “Blood in the Water.” The book gives an account of the horrific conditions inside the prison that sparked the four-day rebellion, the cowardly massacre ordered by the late New York governor and billionaire, Nelson Rockefeller, and the aftermath of the rebellion.

Go to facebook.com/AtticaIsAllOFUs and atticabrothersfoundation.org for more information. Read “WW interviews Attica survivor, Che Nieves” in three parts at workers.org dated Aug. 11, Aug. 18 and Aug. 20, 2021.

Tell Biden: Free Leonard Peltier!

By Leonard Peltier

The excerpted remarks were written by political prisoner Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) for the 53rd annual National Day of Mourning, Nov. 24, 2022, at Plymouth, Massachusetts. On Sept. 12, 2023, Peltier turned 79 years old. He has been falsely imprisoned for over 47 years for allegedly killing two FBI agents in 1975. The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee continues to demand clemency from the White House for the acting Indigenous leader. Go to whoisleonardpeltier.info.

All the world now faces the same challenges that our people foretold, regarding climate damage being caused by people who take more than they need, dismissing the teachings of our fathers and the knowledge of countless generations living upon the Earth in harmony.

Our people have been through a lot; generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought, so we might live.

We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the Earth, in my given circumstances. To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same.

Justice for Junito!

Continued from page 5

(Kensington Voice, Sept. 2)

The march through the Latiñe community that followed grew to around 200 participants, many carrying white flowers and Puerto Rican flags. They stopped on East Willard Street where Irizarry Jr. was killed. A prayer was led by the pastor who presided over his funeral, and rally members paid respects to the family.

Participants laid white roses at a temporary memorial set up at the site.

Chanting “No justice, no peace” and “El pueblo unido jamás será vencido” (the people united will never be defeated), demonstrators marched to the 24th District police headquarters, where they held a concluding rally, chanting, raising fists and calling out their demands before a group of lined-up police officers. Only bike lane posts separated them.

Irizarry’s family members took the mic to speak directly to the police officers. “For you to have the respect of the community, as police officers, you have to earn it,” said Eddie Irizarry Sr. in Spanish. Another speaker, Alfredo Santiesteban, gave a moving, emotional account of witnessing the murder.

The community demands answers for the murder of Eddie “Junito” Irizarry Jr. The state’s violence against the most oppressed and marginalized is a common occurrence in this country. The violence the U.S., its military and police wield on the working class and colonized people of the world is part of the fiber of this capitalist country. The militarization abroad is the same used against us here, and the people are demanding change.

Betsy Piette contributed to this article.

Remembering the martyrs of the 1963 Birmingham bombing

By Monica Moorehead

The 60th anniversary of the infamous Birmingham, Alabama, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church occurred on Sept. 15. On this day in 1963, four Black girls — Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Wesley — ranging from ages 11-14, were murdered while participating in a Bible study class in the basement of the church. Members of the fascist Ku Klux Klan claimed responsibility for this heinous crime, along with a stream of other bombings targeting Civil Rights activists. Three of the four KKK members responsible for the bombing were convicted years later of the murders.

The event was brilliantly documented in Spike Lee’s 1997 Oscar-nominated film, “4 Little Girls,” which included moving interviews with the families of the victims. The bombing took place less than four weeks after the historic March for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C., and four months after a Children’s Crusade march that was savagely attacked in Birmingham. On May 3, 1,000 Black elementary, junior high and high school students left their classes to take part in the crusade action against segregation.

The notorious police commissioner, Bull Connor, gave orders to the racist police to unleash vicious dogs and fire-fighters to aim water in high-pressure fire hoses on these young people before many of them filled jail cells when they refused to end their march. This incident, which created national and international outrage, prompted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to write his famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”

Left to right: Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley

Left, Monica Moorehead with Heath Thompson, “Blood in the Water” author, Sept. 9, 2023.

Attica survivors Che Nieves and Akil Lawrence Killebrew, Sept. 9, 2023.
Solidarity delegation joins Nicaraguan celebration

By Danny O'Brien
Managua, Nicaragua

O’Brien, from Portland, Oregon, and Mairead Skehan Gillis, from Boston represented Workers World Party as part of a solidarity delegation to Nicaragua organized by the Jubilee House Community. Their participation came in celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution.

Their delegation included a proud Nicaraguan-American, who was visiting his home country with his daughter for the first time in 45 years, as well as two Palestinian solidarity activists and trade union leaders from Britain, plus a Veterans for Peace member who has been going on solidarity trips to Nicaragua for many years.

A visit to Nicaragua on July 11-21 provided a living example of a socialist project in opposition to the political and economic structures of a country with a project like this can consistently adapt and improve, despite its enemies’ attempts to cut its throat. It revealed how small the world is, and how there are people the world over engaged in working-class struggle and fighting for their rights who look to the example of the Sandinista Revolution with respect, reverence and solidarity.

The agenda of the delegation included meetings with Nicaragua’s Ministry of Finance, with doctors and officials at the Dr. Fernando Vélez Paiz public hospital in Managua, house visits with doctors from a private clinic in the Nueva Vida neighborhood of Ciudad Sandino, a visit to a state-owned geothermal energy plant, meetings with the national workers’ assembly, meetings with various unions, immersion into arts and culture by visiting museums, parks, national parks, attending a local Catholic mass, and visiting an internationally renowned traditional potter.

The events of the trip were hosted by the Nicaraguan government in conjunction with a series of international delegations from all over the world. Our delegation joined the festivities of the Día de Alegría, the day before the 44th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution, celebrating the happy day in 1979 when former dictator Anastasio Somoza fled the country after a decisive victory by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Thousands of people joined that celebration, congregating in Plaza de F. Juan Pablo II in downtown Managua, across from Lake Xolotlán (Lake Managua). FSLN banners and regalia were omnipresent, as was the still-burning revolutionary spirit of the people. A concert of various bands played revolutionary music as the people while vendors, who had parked their trucks in a massive tailgate and cookout, sold drinks and food for the masses. Fireworks and cricket sounds filled the air.

The following night we again joined a massive international crowd of solidarity activists, foreign ambassadors, journalists, and representatives of Communist parties from Colombia, Chile, Panama, Spain, Catalonia, Costa Rica, Brazil, and other countries for speeches from President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo. The Nicaraguan leaders emphasized international solidarity, giving tribute to the late African revolutionary Thomas Sankara and solidarity to recent events in Sankara’s country, Burkina Faso.

The trip included: (1) the incredible scope and efficacy of their socialist project; (2) the impact of U.S. imperialism on Nicaragua; and (3) the intoxicating air of international solidarity in the country.

Efficacy of socialist project

At the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Minister Bruno Guallardo and Director of Planning Juan Carlos Sanchez gave our delegation a macroeconomic look at Nicaragua. They described with pride the gains since the Sandinista Front took power back in 1979. Some 57.8% of their $250 billion annual budget goes towards social spending, with 25% to healthcare and 20% to education. Another major item is infrastructure; in 2007, only 54% of the population had access to electricity. Now, there is 93.3% access.

In 2007, Nicaragua had 1,270 miles of paved roads, with only 31% in satisfactory condition, and provided road access to only 68 of the 153 municipalities. Since then, 3,728 miles of roads have been paved and 90% are in good condition. In 2007, only 66% of the urban population had access to running water and rationing was necessary, while just 26% of the rural population had access. Now there is 93.5% access to water in urban areas and, in rural areas, 55%, with an 80% goal set for 2026 in the National Development Plan.

In all social facets, there is an inherent responsibility to meet, interact, and communicate with the community. Our delegation joined neighborhood house visits with doctors from a private clinic. The public hospital system in Nicaragua not only includes house visits, but also markets, church, school, and park visits. This encourages preventive checkups during the work day for people who otherwise might avoid giving priority to medical care in their off time.

The government publishes primers to educate the population on social issues, such as gender identity and sexual orientation. These primers encourage the acceptance of family members who have come out as queer and trans. They also educate on the dangers of addiction, mental health, and homelessness that can follow familial evictions.

Continued on page 10
Bidenomics – poverty for masses, more money for war

The primary plank in Joe Biden’s re-election campaign centers around what he calls “Bidenomics” — the premise that he can “grow the economy from the middle out and bottom up” as opposed to the trickle down economics of some earlier administrations.

But two years into Biden’s first administration, workers are worse off economically as inflation and poverty rates soar, and social programs — including expanded Medicaid, food stamps and childcare credits — have been drastically cut or eliminated.

But the worsening economic conditions for workers and the poor have nothing to do with a lack of resources to fulfill human needs. Biden has made it his priority to satisfy the capitalist drive for profits, especially weapons manufacturers and energy executives, rather than improve social and economic conditions for the majority of the U.S. population. Any talk of “from the middle out” is just an empty phrase.

Under “Bidenomics,” a priority is supposedly to “empower and educate workers to grow the middle class.” Exactly how this is supposed to happen remains a major question when student loan debt has been postponed, affirmative action has been dismantled by the U.S. Supreme Court and college tuition is rising at record rates.

Workers and Biden promises to “make smart public investments,” there is no indication of how he would do this with a federal budget that prioritizes military spending while gutting funding for public education.

Emergency measures introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic to every worker began to offer working families a step up out of extreme poverty. Introduced in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan, President Biden’s pandemic-relief package, the expanded child tax credit helped pull some families out of poverty. Had the extended tax credit remained in place, child poverty would have been nearly 50% lower in 2022.

However, faced with opposition from Republicans and members of his own party, Biden dropped efforts to extend this program. The result was a dramatic rise of poverty rates, especially among children. In 2022, when the poverty rate rose to 12.4% from 7.8% in 2021 — the largest one-year jump on record.

In 2023, millions of people who had relied on government-funded health care, also started during the pandemic, found their benefits cut or even eliminated. Federal programs that succeeded in lifting millions of people out of poverty were abandoned.

In their article on the rise in poverty rates in 2022, The New York Times concludes “that poverty is very much a policy choice.” (Sept. 12, 2023)

With the escalation of the U.S.-NATO-driven war in Ukraine in February 2022, Biden’s spending policies dramatically shifted to billions of dollars on weapons. Over a year and a half later, there is no indication that this spending spree for weapons of destruction will stop.

Any gains that working families have made in terms of wage increases have been the result of a growing movement of workers organizing unions and striking for longer overdue increases in wages and benefits. The current United Auto Workers strike against the Big Three auto companies is a prime example, as autoworkers demand the same 4% increase in income that their counterparts in Japan and Germany enjoy as a result of their country’s CEOS enjoyed over the past four years.

It is possible to lift millions or even billions of people out of poverty! Yes! For a majority of the U.S. population, poverty is a capitalist-driven choice. This choice could not be clearer when you compare capitalist U.S. to socialist China, which has dedicated years of planning and serious resources to and has succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty.

Workers World is in solidarity with all immigrants and migrants forced to attempt unsafe border crossings, driven by economic oppression caused by decades of U.S. neoliberal policies in their countries and U.S.-backed political repression.

Bidenomics

Nicaraguan celebration

Continued from page 9

Nicaragua’s extremely adaptive socialist project has rapidly achieved wonders for poverty alleviation and continues to strengthen its hold despite the presence of a “free” market and private enterprise in the mixed economy of the country.

International solidarity

What stood out most for visitors was the intoxicating air of solidarity between Nicaragua and Burkina Faso comes with unprecedented diplomatic relations and solidarity between Nicaragua and Burkina Faso. The Libya government targets. The NATO imperialists, however, considered Gadhafi a threat and an enemy, as they had since the Libyan leader deposed a puppet monarchy in 1969. NATO used the pretext of an internal opposition to open a war on Gadhafi’s government. The 2011 NATO bombing, led by France and the U.S., forced strikes from French jets. Soon the U.S. Air Force took the lead, carrying out regular bombing runs from bases in Italy to strike Libyan government targets.

The U.S.-led NATO’s targets was a factory producing pipes to transport water underground. After NATO bombing wore down the government army, Gadhafi’s internal enemies murdered him in August. Then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton laughingly announced a month later, “We came, we saw, he died.” (CBS News, Oct. 20, 2011)

The U.S.-led NATO bombing destroyed Libya as a stable, unified state, depleted its treasury, ushered in a long civil war that still has Libya divided in two, and created chaos, driven by internal conflict, by the Greek government under the orders of the EU.
Cuban president speaks Challenges facing developing countries

By Betsey Piette

The inaugural session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 plus China was held in Havana, Cuba, Sept. 14-16. Established in 1964, the G77 now has 134 members, with a rotating chair among member countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries, with two-thirds of the U.N. member states, and accounts for 80% of the world’s population. Although China is not an official member, it consistently supports the G77 positions and demands. Mexico, a founding G77 member which withdrew from the alliance in 1994, rejoined this year.

This year’s summit specifically addressed “current development challenges: the role of science, technology and innovation,” tackling “core” development issues. The summit was held this year, and President of the Republic of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez addressed the opening session, which was attended by U.N. Secretary Antonio Guterres.

Díaz-Canel addressed his remarks by defining the six-decade U.S. imperialist blockade of Cuba and “all the problems that go with that siege, which has recently been intensified.” He addressed “the immense challenges generated by the prevailing unjust international order,” noting, “but we are not alone.”

He called for dismantling, now, the “international barriers that have obstructed access by the developing countries. ... This summit occurs at a time when humanity requires a scientific-technical potential. ... This has an extraordinary capacity to generate wealth and well-being, that, under conditions of greater equality, equity and justice, could ensure decent, comfortable and sustainable living standards for almost all the inhabitants of the planet.”

“Considering the length of time during which North has adapted the world to suit its interests, even to one else’s expense, the moment has arrived for the South to change the rules of the game.”

“It’s the hour of the furnaces, in which all there is to see is the fumes of the scientific-technical potential that the South has reached unimaginable scientific-technical potential. It is unjust, and the South can no longer bear the deadweight of all the problems.”

“We have proposed as this summit’s theme the role of science, technology and innovation as essential components of the political struggle with the world.”

“We do so in the conviction that the achievements and advances in this field are those that will finally reveal what power is, and when and where it will be possible to fulfill the ideal sustainable development goals, relating to: ending poverty; zero world hunger; and well-being. Inequality; education, gender equality; clean water and sanitation; access to medicine and health care. The resolution of the problems of energy, employment, economic growth, industrialization and social justice.”

Díaz-Canel stressed that, “It is necessary to remove the barriers that hinder access to the knowledge by developing countries and their use of such determining factors for economic and social progress.”

“The ultimate goal of the Western imperialists is regime change in Moscow, to impose a weak government or to break the country into many smaller, weaker, and easy-to-control countries. This would allow corporate oligarchs in the U.S., Western Europe and Japan to exploit Russia’s natural resources. And it would remove Russia as an obstacle to a U.S.-led war against China.”

“The conference appeals for immediate actions to defend the peace, including the cessation of U.S./Western arms shipments to Ukraine, an end to the sanctions on Russia as well as the Russianophobic campaign, and the invalidation of the statement condemning Russia as a terrorist state. An armistice between the belligerent forces, allowing for peaceful negotiations. The establishment of a truly neutral and democratic Ukraine. The cessation of the arms race and the dissolution of NATO. Your endorsement can make a difference. We urge you to join us in Rome and be part of this historic event. Only the popular struggle of the international working class can defeat the forces of U.S./Western militarism and imperialism.”

Continúa de página 12

Según los informes policiales, Díaz y un segundo agente de policía detuvieron a Irizarry Jr. por “conducir de forma errática” y contra el tráfico. En su informe inicial, la prensa, los agentes afirmaron que Irizarry había apparció el coche y se había bajado, abalanzándose sobre Díaz con una navaja de 7 cm, pero luego se retractaron cuándo los testigos y las grabaciones de la policía negaron que Irizarry nunca había salido del coche.

La cámara corporal muestra que estaba dentro de su coche y las ventanas subidas cuando Díaz se acercó a la parte delantera del coche y disparó rápidamente seis tiros a través del parabrisas y la ventanilla lateral, matando a Irizarry. (Inquirer.com, 17 de agosto)

En la grabación se oye a la policía buscando el coche el coche. Díaz había sido suspendido durante 30 días, a la espera de su despido, por no cooperar con la investigación y no acatar las órdenes, no por el asesinato de Irizarry. Pero, como era de esperar, cuenta con el pleno apoyo de la Orden Policial de la FOP.

La comunidad exige respuestas

Los familiares de Irizarry tomaron el microfóno para dirigirse directamente a los policías. “Para que el pueblo unido jamás será vencido”, los manifestantes marcharon hasta la comisaría del distrito 24, donde celebraron una concentración final, coroando, levantando los puños y expresando su reivindicación ante un grupo de policías alineados. Sólo se separaban los postes del carril para bicicletas.
El verano de 2023 se registró como el más cálido, al menos en mucho tiempo, según el Servicio de Cambio Climático de Canadá. Incendios forestales y otras catástrofes que sobrepasan las medidas entre los meses de junio y agosto fueron anormalmente altas en muchas partes del mundo, superando récords anteriores. En un estudio alarmante, el océano mundial registró la temperatura superficial diaria más calida jamás registrada y tuvo su mes más cálido en general. (Reuter, 7 de septiembre)

A pesar del calor abrasador de este verano, algunos expertos advierten que el verano de 2023 no fue “el más fresco” en comparación con lo que creen que está por venir. Ashley Ward, directora del Centro de Innovación en Políticas de Calor del Instituto Nicholas de Energía, Medio Ambiente y Sostenibilidad de la Universidad de Duke, pronosticó: “No está fuera del abanico de nuestras expectativas. Creo que éste podría ser el verano más fresco del resto de nuestras vidas”.

El verano de 2023 se enfrentó a la posibilidad de una gran huelga nacional, pero no se llegó a un acuerdo, y los trabajadores de la UP se mostraron deprimidos. Los trabajadores de las fábricas de reparto de UPS han muerto como consecuencia del agotamiento por calor y la falta de aire acondicionado. A finales de agosto, un camionero de 57 años murió mientras hacía entregas para UPS en Texas, donde el calor alcanzaba los 101 grados Fahrenheit. (HuffPost, 31 de agosto)